FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-95-079
Tuesday
25 April 1995

Daily Report
East Asia

FBIS-EAS-95-079 CONTENTS *25 April 1995*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Prospects for U.S. Auto Talks Reported 1
  Hashimoto Comments on Talks *[KYODO]* 1
  Tokyo To File Complaint With WTO *[KYODO]* 1
  MITI Softens Hashimoto Remarks *[KYODO]* 1
Ruggiero Urges Full Support of WTO *[KYODO]* 2
Source: G-7 To Discuss 'Reference Zone' Idea *[KYODO]* 2
Takemura Hopes for U.S. Defense of Dollar *[KYODO]* 3
Keidanren's Toyoda Discusses Economic Growth *[YOMIURI SHIMBUN 27 Mar]* 3
Takemura, Rubin Meet Before G-7 Session *[KYODO]* 6
Survey Shows Small Firms Damaged by High Yen *[KYODO]* 6
MOF Wary of Economic Impact of High Yen *[KYODO]* 6
Idea Floated To Place More Emphasis on Mark *[NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN 22 Apr]* 7
Industrialist Proposes Numerical Import Targets *[SANKEI SHIMBUN 17 Apr]* 8
Toyoda Criticizes Calls for Export Restraints *[KYODO]* 9
Russians Arrive From Kurils on Exchange Program *[KYODO]* 9
Tokyo, Moscow Officials Review 'Hashimoto Plan' *[NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN 14 Apr]* 9
EU Import Ban on Seafood Examined *[KYODO]* 9
Taiwan Urges Tokyo To Invite Li To APEC *[Taipei CNA]* 10
Keidanren Faces 'Silent Protest' From Malaysia *[YOMIURI SHIMBUN 18 Apr]* 11
Article Views Asian Nuclear Energy Development *[ASAHI SHIMBUN 13 Apr]* 11
Murayama To Offer Environmental Aid to PRC *[KYODO]* 12
Officials Address Docking of Nuclear Waste Ship *[KYODO]* 13
Unloading of Nuclear Waste Postponed *[KYODO]* 13
Series on Development of Low-Pollution Buses 14
  Hino HIMR Viewed *[JIDOSHA KOGAKU Apr]* 14
  MBECS Bus Profiled *[JIDOSHA KOGAKU Apr]* 16
Aum, Sarin Link Reported Before Subway Attack *[SHUKAN ASAHI 20 Jan]* 18
Russian Expert Discusses Sarin Incident *[NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN 18 Apr]* 21
SDF Members Identified as Sect Followers *[KYODO]* 22
Komura on Effects of Supplementary Budget *[KYODO]* 22
Parties Agree on Preferential Tax for Imports *[KYODO]* 22
MITI Chooses Toyobo To Receive Tax Breaks *[KYODO]* 23
Local Election Results Affect Coalition Parties *[MAINICHI SHIMBUN 16 Apr]* 23
SDPJ 'Rebel' Group Abandons New Party Plan *[KYODO]* 23
Possibility of Murayama Resignation Viewed *[KYODO]* 24

North Korea

DPRK Diplomat on Geneva Talks Letter to U.S. *[KYODO]* 24
NSP Blamed for 'Alienating' Koreans in PRC *[Pyongyang Radio]* 25
South Koreans Invited as 'Honorary Guests' *[KCNA]* 26
ROK Suppression of Memorial Service Criticized *[KCNA]* 26
Human Rights 'Violations' of Kim Yong-sam Group *[KCNA]* 27
Environmental Committee Spokesman on DMZ Control *[KCNA]* 27
ROK Media on Concern Over North-Japanese Talks *[Pyongyang Radio]* 28
Foreign Groups Urge Japan To Resume Talks *[KCNA]* 28
U.S. Attempting To 'Bribe' Countries With Aid *[KCNA]* 29
Kim Chong-il's Intelligence, 'Grit' Praised *[KCNA]* 29

Kim Chong-il Health Services Contributions Noted *[KCNA]* 30
Editorials Laud Kim Chong-il Military Leadership *[KCNA]* 31
Delegation From Zaire Visits Kim Il-song Statue *[KCNA]* 31
Birth Anniversary of Kim Il-song Commemorated *[KCNA]* 32
    More Functions Held Abroad *[KCNA]* 32
More on Leaders Attending KPA Founding Meeting *[Pyongyang Radio]* 33
    Choe Kwang Addresses Meeting *[Pyongyang Radio]* 33
North Hwanghae Utilizing Export Goods Sources *[MINJU CHOSON 22 Mar]* 40
Taean Heavy Machinery Complex Reports Gains *[NODONG SINMUN 2 Apr]* 40
Electric Power Plants Built in Songchon, Sadong *[NODONG SINMUN 24 Mar]* 41
Increase in Number of Technicians, Experts Noted *[KCNA]* 42
Countries Urged To Fight Against 'Dominationism' *[KCNA]* 43
Article Stresses Importance of Party Leadership *[MINJU CHOSON 24 Mar]* 43

South Korea

Seoul, U.S. Agree on MAC Delegate Replacement *[CHOSON ILBO 25 Apr]* 46
    Discuss Ways To Reactivate MAC *[YONHAP]* 46
IAEA Official: DPRK Continues Nuclear Freeze *[Seoul Radio]* 46
U.S. State Department on IAEA 'Competence' *[YONHAP]* 47
U.S. on DPRK Reply to Geneva Talks Proposal *[Seoul Radio]* 47
    Officials Discuss Response *[YONHAP]* 47
Effectiveness of Kang-Gallucci Talks Questioned *[KYONGHYANG SINMUN 25 Apr]* 48
Daily Specualtes on DPRK 'Food Crisis' *[CHUNGANG ILBO 24 Apr]* 49
15 Aug Celebration Preparatory Committee Formed *[CHOSON ILBO 23 Apr]* 49
North, South Buddhist Leaders Meet in Beijing *[YONHAP]* 49
Kim Tae-chung Criticizes Policy on N-S Visits *[YONHAP]* 49
Article Discusses DPRK's Tourism Industry *[KYONGHYANG SINMUN 24 Apr]* 50
Statistics Say DPRK Registers Trade Surplus *[MUNHWA ILBO 25 Apr]* 50
Hong Kong-Based Firm Agrees To Build in DPRK *[CHOSON ILBO 24 Apr]* 51
U.S. Congressmen Visit on Intellectual Rights *[SEOUL SINMUN 23 Apr]* 51
Tokyo Asked To Reinforce Korea Embassy Security *[YONHAP]* 51
Airport Toughens Japanese Travelers Inspections *[YONHAP]* 51
Measures Studied To Attract Japanese Investment *[YONHAP]* 52
Korea-China Undersea Cable Construction Begins *[THE KOREA HERALD 25 Apr]* 52
Iran Agrees on All Outstanding Export Accounts *[YONHAP]* 53
    Further on Repayment Agreement *[CHUNGANG ILBO 23 Apr]* 53
Government, UK Sign Accord on Transportation *[YONHAP]* 53
Draft Revision of Food Safety Legislation Viewed *[THE KOREA HERALD 21 Apr]* 53
Antidumping Duties Imposed on Zinc Ingot Imports *[THE KOREA HERALD 25 Apr]* 54
Additional Foreign Workers Allowed Into Country *[YONHAP]* 54
Seoul Agrees To Boost Business With Sri Lanka *[YONHAP]* 54
Preelection Opposition Party Merger 'Impossible' *[YONHAP]* 55
Former Premier Denies Mayoral Election Candidacy *[YONHAP]* 55
'Meddling' by Former Opposition Leader Alleged *[YONHAP]* 55
Kim Yong-sam Stresses Administrative Deregulation *[YONHAP]* 56
President Orders Reforms in Legal Education *[YONHAP]* 56

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Blasts 'Distorted' Reports on Polls *[THE STAR 23 Apr]* 57
    Criticizes Magazine Report *[BERITA HARIAN 21 Apr]* 57
Opposition Leader Not To Rejoin Barisan *[THE STAR 24 Apr]* 57

Singapore

Editorial on Terrorism, Criticizes Clinton *[BUSINESS TIMES 21 Apr]* 58

Government Contributes to KEDO *[Singapore Radio]* 58
Spratlys Dispute Seen as 'Test' for ARF *[THE STRAITS TIMES 21 Apr]* 58
Singapore, Thailand Top Investors in Burma *[THE STRAITS TIMES 21 Apr]* 59

Indonesia

Officials on Visit by U.S. Special Envoy *[SUARA KARYA 22 Apr]* 60
Resistance Welcomes Butrus-Ghali's View on East Timor *[Lisbon Radio]* 60
UN Backs Suharto Proposal for Former Yugoslavia *[Jakarta Radio]* 61
Suharto Peace Plan Welcomed by States *[REPUBLIKA 25 Apr]* 61
Suharto Marks Anniversary of Bandung Conference *[ANTARA]* 61
    Dailies View Anniversary *[Jakarta Radio]* 62

Philippines

Change Seen in Post-Romulo Economic Policy *[PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 19 Apr]* 63
Ramos Asks U.S. To Defer Khalifa Deportation *[Quezon City Radio-TV]* 64
Defense Secretary on Continued Spratlys Alert *[Quezon City Radio-TV]* 64
Defense Analysts on Spratlys War Scenario *[BUSINESS WORLD 21 Apr]* 64
Editorial: Potential Spratlys War With PRC *[THE MANILA CHRONICLE 20 Apr]* 65
Editorial Speculates on Spratlys War *[MALAYA 20 Apr]* 65
'Breakaway Faction' of MNLF Confirmed *[MANILA BULLETIN 19 Apr]* 66
Abu Sayyaf MNLF Unit Vows Punishment *[Quezon City Radio-TV]* 67
De Villa Says MNLF Participated in Ipil Raid *[Quezon City Radio-TV]* 67

Thailand

UN Envoy Supports Limited Extension of NPT *[THE NATION 25 Apr]* 67
Police Deploy Extra Security at U.S. Embassy *[BANGKOK POST 25 Apr]* 68
PRC, Burmese Interest in Mekong Pact Seen *[ZHONG HUA RIBAO 21 Apr]* 68
No Evidence of Chemical Weapon Use by Burma *[NAEO NA 25 Feb]* 68
Ministry To Use Reserves To Pay Yen Loan *[BANGKOK POST 24 Apr]* 68
JETRO Urges Bangkok To Reform Trade Laws *[BUSINESS DAY 25 Apr]* 69
Official Views Pharmaceutical Patent Law *[KRUNGTHEP THURAKIT 24 Apr]* 69

Vietnam

Vo Van Kiet Urges U.S. To Normalize Relations *[AFP]* 71
Paper Marks Lenin's Birthday *[VNA]* 71
Joint Venture With Japanese To Develop Port *[Hanoi Radio]* 71
Vo Van Kiet Inspects Industrial Projects *[Hanoi Radio]* 71
Airport Upgrade Worth $4 Billion Approved *[VIETNAM INVESTMENT REVIEW 19 Mar]* 72
* Catholics Said To Pose Political Problems in Thai Binh
  [TAP CHI QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN Jan] 72

Japan

Prospects for U.S. Auto Talks Reported

Hashimoto Comments on Talks

OW2504032195 Tokyo KYODO in English 0307 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Trade Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Tuesday [25 April] he is "neither optimistic nor pessimistic" about Japan-U.S. auto trade talks this week.

"I hope that a good result will be produced" from the expert-level talks Wednesday and Thursday in Tokyo, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) chief said. "But I am neither optimistic nor pessimistic."

The United States showed it is "serious" by seeking this week's talks, which focus on deregulating the repair-parts market, expanding dealerships that sell foreign cars and establishing criteria to judge progress, Hashimoto told a regular news conference after a morning cabinet meeting.

"Of course, Japan is also seriously grappling" with the issue, he said of the auto and parts trade, which comprises the bulk of the huge bilateral trade imbalance and which is the remaining unresolved priority sector in Japan-U.S. talks under a 1993 trade "framework."

Hashimoto expressed the hope that the finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized countries, now meeting in Washington, would make their "utmost efforts" to curb the surging yen "even a little."

He added he has made a similar request to Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura before Takemura left Japan for the G-7 meeting.

The trade minister also remained negative about the possibility of Japan's utilities companies cutting their rates to consumers to pass along the benefits of the high yen, playing down the news that Kyushu Electric Power Co. might further cut its rates.

MITI officials have not embraced the idea, repeatedly saying that although the high yen should make imported fuel cheaper for Japanese companies, the benefits of the exchange rate have been offset until recently by a simultaneous rise in crude oil prices.

This price rise has caused Japanese companies to suffer cumulative losses which must be recouped before any reduction can be made in charges to Japanese consumers, according to MITI.

However, Kyushu Electric Power Co. cut its rates in October as the high yen boosted its profits.

The company "will have to make a statement on power rates next month," company president Shigeru Ono told a news conference Monday.

"It has been our longstanding position to pass on foreign exchange gains to consumers, whenever such gains are generated," he explained.

Hashimoto said he has not heard the news, but on scanning a report from an aide, he said Ono has only been responding to a question about the possibility of more cuts in electricity charges if the yen stays at its current level.

Decisions about charges for utilities must be made on the basis of a comprehensive judgment which includes taking account of foreign-exchange and oil-price levels, he said, adding that on the current "gradually rising" trend, the price of crude oil could continue its upward trend next month.

Tokyo To File Complaint With WTO

OW2504083195 Tokyo KYODO in English 0824 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Japan will immediately file a complaint with the World Trade Organization (WTO) if the United States publishes a sanctions list over stalemated auto talks, Trade Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Tuesday.

Hashimoto made the comment in a brief talk with the visiting WTO Director General-Designate, Renato Ruggiero, said a Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) official.

Japan has said it would break off talks if the U.S. publishes a list of items for possible sanctions and would go to the WTO if sanctions were enacted, but Hashimoto's comments signaled for the first time Tokyo is ready to appeal to the global trade referee on the sanctions list alone.

MITI Softens Hashimoto Remarks

OW2504102295 Tokyo KYODO in English 1008 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Japan might file a complaint with the World Trade Organization (WTO) if the United States publishes a sanctions list over stalemated auto talks, a senior trade official said Tuesday, toning down an earlier ministry version.

International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told WTO chief-to-be Renato Ruggiero that Japan could go to the Geneva-based trade referee on publication of a list of items subject to sanctions, without waiting for sanctions to be imposed, the official said.

The senior official at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), speaking to reporters on condition he not be named, provided a softer version of Hashimoto's remarks than a lower-level MITI briefer who told reporters just minutes earlier that Hashimoto had vowed to go to the WTO immediately if Washington publishes the list.

Japan has long said it would break off auto talks if the list were published and would fight sanctions, imposed under section 301 of U.S. trade law, with a complaint to the WTO. But Hashimoto's comments were the first to indicate Japan may not wait for the sanctions themselves.

Another MITI official said Hashimoto raised the issue of the auto and auto parts talks, saying the publicly acrimonious negotiations are a painful problem for him and noting the possibility of a WTO complaint upon issuance of the list.

This official said Ruggiero, who takes over the fledgling WTO next month, replied that he hopes Japan and the U.S. will settle the problem at the negotiating table but that the WTO exists to settle such disputes, if needed.

blasting U.S. calls for Japanese automakers to boost their planned purchases of foreign car parts, the senior official kept up the heat over the auto talks, which resume with expert-level sessions Wednesday and Thursday in Tokyo after high-level talks last week made little headway.

The U.S. is like the wolf who disguises himself to devour little red riding hood, presenting a free-trade front in official negotiations but essentially demanding targeted managed trade away from the negotiating table, the senior official said.

Japan has barred any talk of the "voluntary plans" from the negotiations but complains that American negotiators bring the idea up over meals and essentially make voluntary corporate efforts an essential part of a government-to-government deal.

U.S. officials say industry must "participate" in a solution to the talks which, according to the 1993 bilateral "framework" on which they are based, aim at significant increases of purchases of foreign parts.

The U.S. has hinted that may is a crucial deadline for deciding whether to publish the sanctions list.

Hashimoto told a morning news conference he is neither optimistic nor pessimistic about an auto deal. The senior MITI official said he is optimistic if the U.S. drops the voluntary plan insistence and pessimistic if it does not.

Autos and auto parts account for some 60 percent of the annual bilateral trade imbalance and are the only unresolved priority sector in the framework talks.

Ruggiero Urges Full Support of WTO

OW2504111595 Tokyo KYODO in English 1108 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Renato Ruggiero, designated head of the World Trade Organization (WTO), on Tuesday called for Japanese financial support to strengthen the functions of the new global trade watchdog, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Ruggiero, who will become the WTO's first director general May 1, made the call in a 35-minute meeting with Foreign Minister Yohei Kono at the Foreign Ministry.

The former Italian trade minister told Kono that support from WTO members in budgetary and staffing areas is essential as the WTO expands into new spheres such as services, intellectual property and trade and investment.

Support and understanding from Japan are particularly important since the country is a major WTO member, Ruggiero was quoted as saying.

Kono replied that Japan wants to contribute to ensuring smooth operation of the WTO, which replaced the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) on Jan. 1.

Ruggiero is on a three-day visit to Japan, his first stop since being designated as chief of the world body. Kono sought Ruggiero's help in increasing the number of Japanese staffers in the WTO, which currently is three, the ministry said.

Ruggiero said it is important for the organization to have staff members who understand Japan well, regardless of nationality, and he hopes Japan will discuss the matter thoroughly next month when the head of the WTO's personnel department visits Japan.

On other topics, Kono and Ruggiero agreed that it is necessary to solve trade disputes based on rules agreed upon by each country, the official said.

They also agreed that solving rows at the WTO is an objective method, but they did not address specific issues such as mounting Japan-U.S. tensions over auto and auto parts talks. Ruggiero also told Kono that Japan's support in maintaining a multilateral trade system is essential.

Source: G-7 To Discuss 'Reference Zone' Idea

OW2404160195 Tokyo KYODO in English 1456 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, April 24 KYODO—Top finance officials from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized countries are likely to discuss during their upcoming meeting the possibility of crafting a new mechanism for exchange rate stability, a Japanese Finance Ministry source said Monday [24 April].

"Discussion on creating a reference zone for exchange rates will likely be taken up at the G-7 meeting," the source said.

He was accompanying Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura on his trip to Washington to attend a series of international monetary conferences that start with Tuesday's meeting of G-7 finance chiefs and central bank governors.

How to review the present floating-rate mechanism has been under discussion for a long time, he said.

"Japan will take part in the G-7 meeting having the awareness of the need to discuss the matter," the source said.

But he added Tokvo has no plan to make "a specific proposal" on the issue.

The idea of introducing a target range as a remedy against violent currency rate fluctuations has reemerged recently, following the dollar's unabated descent to record-breaking lows against the yen.

Such an idea was first shown in a report prepared in 1985 by deputies of top financial officials from the so-called "Group of 10" industrialized countries.

Calls have recently been growing internationally for an all-out overhaul of the global monetary system to mark the 50th anniversary of the bretton woods system.

Takemura Hopes for U.S. Defense of Dollar

OW2404231195 Tokyo KYODO in English 2233 GMT 24 Apr 95

[By Keiko Tatsuta]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, April 24 KYODO—Japanese Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura expressed strong hopes Monday [24 April] that the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations will agree on closer cooperation to arrest the yen's surges against the dollar.

Speaking to reporters upon arrival in Washington to attend Tuesday's G-7 meeting, Takemura said, "since the seven countries feel in common that these rapid fluctuations (in foreign exchange markets) are undesirable, I expect we will be ready to further coordinate and cooperate through talks."

Takemura said the yen's recent quick appreciation against the dollar will seriously affect not only the United States but also the global economy because about 60 percent of world settlements are dollar-denominated.

As short-term measures to stabilize currency rates, Takemura said, "We should continue making much of the cooperation in interest rate policy and market intervention."

Asked whether the G-7 meeting will issue a statement, Takemura said nothing has been determined yet.

Takemura indicated that at the G-7 gathering Japan would not elaborate a supplementary budget for fiscal 1995 under compilation to halt the yen's appreciation and to expand domestic demand, saying, "As we are not in Japan, we will not explain it in detail, such as the scale."

At a news conference later that day, Takemura said the U.S. has voiced a sense of crisis about unabated declines of the dollar's value as the key international currency, wishing for a strong dollar.

Takemura apparently expressed hopes for tough U.S. dollar-defending steps, saying, "Their sense of crisis has increasingly grown."

As part of efforts to stabilize currency rates, Takemura pointed to the need for each of G-7 nations to promote its own macroeconomic policies steadily.

In this context, Takemura urged the U.S. to cut its budget and trade deficits, saying, "They should pay attention afresh to their twin deficits."

On the other hand, Japan naturally has to care about its huge trade imbalance with Washington in favor of Tokyo, Takemura said.

To this end, the Japanese Government has just announced an economic package, he said.

Declining comments on whether the U.S. may take any monetary step to reverse the dollar's weakness, Takemura expected Washington to make a comprehensive judgment, taking into account their domestic economy.

Takemura said he told U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin in previous talks in Bali, Indonesia, in mid-April that since the dollar is a key currency for the entire world, including Asian nations, the U.S. is requested to consider its role fully.

Keidanren's Toyoda Discusses Economic Growth

OW2504140795 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 27 Mar 95 Morning Edition p 13

[Interview with Shoichiro Toyoda, president of the Federation of Economic Organizations of Japan (Keidanren) by Kenichiro Ozaki and Ikuya Shigeta; date, place not given—first paragraph is YOMIURI SHIMBUN introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Federation of Economic Organizations President Shoichiro Toyoda (Toyota Motors chairman) gave an interview to YOMIURI SHIMBUN recently and pointed out the issues which the Japanese economy would have to overcome in the coming 21st century. First, as for mid- to long-term prospects, the chairman indicated that "the Japanese economy will have to continue to grow at an annual rate of three percent to fulfill its responsibilities to the world as it has doing." He stressed that, in order to achieve that goal, it is important to carry out deregulation, albeit involving temporary pain. He also said that reform without exemptions, including of non-tariff barriers, would be indispensable. He also said that we should reform the industrial structure and, through the growth of "venture enterprises," should aim for a society in which one can realize one's dream. He also touched on the revival of Keidanren itself, which is shaky because of the collapse of the 1955 political structure. He pledged that he would do his utmost to formulate a direction for the industrial sector, transcending individual enterprises.

Rising Yen Exceeds Enterprises' Ability To Cope

[YOMIURI SHIMBUN] The current state of the economy is said to be fundamentally one of mild recovery, but there are many unclear factors. What is your projection for the future?

[Toyoda] As a whole, it is improving a little. But, influenced by the great Hanshin earthquake and by the risen yen, there is some worry that recovery could be delayed or the underlying movement toward recovery itself could collapse. Still we should not lose our presence of mind. As for management and so on, it is important to stick faithfully to the thinking which we have had in the past. Of course, the government should quickly carry out the active expansion of domestic demand, such as by front loading of the basic plan for public investment in the amount of 630 trillion yen and every other possible measure. As for the finance authorities, the promotion of deregulation in finance is important.

Basically, we, the export enterprises, are the only ones who will be troubled by the high yen. Travel overseas will become easier, and the lower price of imported goods is also a plus. Additionally, enterprises have been making efforts to strengthen management behavior to counter the high yen through "ristora" (restructuring of enterprise) and so on.

But the sudden and sharp rise of the yen this time, frankly, has exceeded the dimensions of which the enterprises could cope. I can not believe this is indicative of "fundamentals" (various fundamental conditions of economics), and I cannot approve of the appreciation of the yen by over 10 percent in a month. The appropriate level should be about 110-120 yen per dollar.

There is an opinion in recent days that we should respond to the high yen with increasing product prices. It has been our practice, however, that we usually raise prices when they should be raised. But the suddenly rise of the exceeds our ability to deal with it. It is entirely impossible to pass on the fluctuation of the yen rate directly to prices, since we are at the mercy of the fluctuations.

[YOMIURI SHIMBUN] The progress of the high yen accelerates the hollowing out of industry and jeopardizes the employment environment. To avoid such a situation, many people voice the view that deregulation is important.

[Toyoda] The suddenly risen yen will unnecessarily accelerate the move of the production base of manufacturing industries to overseas. What is necessary here is the realization of deregulation. Deregulation will produce new industries, and, at the same time, the principles of competition should be brought into areas which are protected by regulations, such as agriculture and distribution. Economic vitalization should be attempted. Deregulation will lead to increased domestic demand and to increased imports as a result of the correction of the price gap between Japan and the outside. This will also be useful for correcting the balance of payments with other countries and the high yen.

Carrying out deregulation will naturally be accompanied by temporary pain. But if carried out, according to the Keidanren's test calculations, it will produce a profit of 177 trillion yen in the year 2000 and will generate employment exceeding 140,000. We must publicize more that deregulation will result in producing greater economic effectiveness.

The government will formulate its five-year plan within this month. As far as I can tell from the interim report, it does not respond fully to previous requests made by Keidanren and others. A well-thought out plan is necessary for the enforcement of deregulation. Unless the content of the initial plan is well-formulated, it will not be sufficient.

When the plan is made, then it is our turn to cooperate with actual enforcement. Not only the enterprises in the private sector, but everyone tends to agree in general but disagree on specifics. But it is necessary to overcome the pain and to carry it out for the sake of everyone. We should not make exceptions. I think the auto industry is relatively open, but still other countries have been pointing out that there are barriers in the areas outside the rules. Including these areas, we should review the points which should be corrected.

[YOMIURI SHIMBUN] If we increase economic transparency by carrying out deregulation, will the Japanese economy's potential for growth increase?

[Toyoda] We have to ensure that the situation is one in which that will be the case. It would be another matter if we are content to decline to the position of being a country with a third-rate economy. But to create an affluent society and to contribute to the world, steady growth is necessary. The primary factors which have contributed to growth, such as a high savings rate, stable labor-employer relations, and so on are going strong. As for mid- to long-term real economic growth, around three percent is possible, and we should make an effort to maintain that.

The Japanese economy is in a stage of structural reform. This provides a chance to make great strides. I feel that forward-looking thinking is necessary to maintain growth.

[YOMIURI SHIMBUN] For further growth, are new basic industries which will replace heavy and large industries also necessary?

[Toyoda] If the hollowing out continues, production moves overseas, and production in Japan decreases, it will be necessary to start new industries. Today high growth is expected in the "information/communication area," which includes computer software and data base and so on, and "highly public fields" such as the environment, medicine, welfare, and so on. As for the technology to support these, it would include electronics, new materials, biotechnology, and so on. Even for mature industries, it will be possible to create additional value by combining new technologies.

To create new industries, creativity and nurturing of talented people who possess unique individuality are indispensable. Japan has tried to catch up with Europe and the United States since the Meiji period, but it has tended to imitate Europe and the United States. Today, we stand side by side with them as a developed country, so we should not imitate them. Rather, we should think for ourselves, use our own judgment, and display originality.

When it comes to originality, there is a very positive attitude in the U.S. society. In the past, venture businesses produced growth: the number of small companies has been increasing recently. The reason there are many newly listed enterprises in the United States is that there is a system to nurture venture businesses. In Japan as well, many such small companies were born in the past: Toyota was one of them. But such a climate has become a rarity today.

If it were possible that a small company could be started and grow into a large one, it would provide the founder and the entire society with a dream. In Japan, one's income does not increase very substantially even when one becomes an executive in a large enterprise. But if, for example, there were to be a system in which one could hold a certain amount of one's company's shares from the time the company is founded, the executive would devote his efforts to management in anticipation of a rise in the stock when the company's shares go on the market. As for society as well, people who have original ideas will emerge, new industries will grow, and vitality will permeate it.

If the situation remains the way it is, the big enterprises will only decline. To avoid that, it is necessary to create and nurture venture departments within the large enterprises.

[YOMIURI SHIMBUN] What is the key to bringing up the talented people who will develop new industries and technology?

[Toyoda] School study itself is important, but we must have many people who are prepared to step forward and do something new. The current university entrance exams place great emphasis on memorization rather than on thinking. Also, enterprises have sought students with high grade-point averages and nurtured such people who did not get out of the company mold, working without fault. So we share the part of the responsibility.

When one is promoted because of seniority, not because of achievement, in a large enterprise, the company will not flourish with vitality. There is a total lack of dreams and ideals. If one cannot dream, why should one want to work so hard? People should seek the ideal, make efforts, and realize it step by step.

Among the Japanese-style employment practices, the pros and cons of which are debatable, the seniority system and horizontal lineup practices need to be reviewed. But practices such as an employment system with a long-term point of view are positive ones, and we should not hesitate to cite such advantages.

Keidanren is now moving forward to create a "vision" which includes everything from the appointment/personnel system to education. The aim is to bring up creative talent. Such a vision should not stop with a single enterprise but should be taken up by the country as a whole.

Asian Expectations Are Great

[YOMIURI SHIMBUN] As for international relations, I feel the relationship with Asia will become more and more important.

[Toyoda] The speed of development has been accelerating every time I visit countries in Asia. The development in countries such as China and Thailand is remarkable, and Vietnam, which I visited for the first time as a member of a Keidanren mission, will be achieving considerable growth in two or three years.

What I feel in visiting each country is the greatness of their expectations toward Japan. They yearn for increased investments and rearing of human resources. They also seem to be unhappy in those locations because of the diminished degree of the Japanese contribution beginning about two years ago, perhaps due to Japan's worsened business conditions.

Asian countries face difficult problems, such as the improvement of infrastructure, energy, and the environment. By responding to Asian expectations, Japan's existence will be recognized in the world. We should not just think about our own interests. It is desirable that the United States and Japan cooperate and support them by making sufficient efforts.

Also, as for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, it should be based on the principle of open regionalism, and it is necessary to expand its achievement to nations outside of the region. Maintaining the promotion of APEC is a subject of the greatest priority, and from this viewpoint, Keidanren will make proposals concerning the APEC Conference which will be held this autumn in Osaka.

Takemura, Rubin Meet Before G-7 Session

OW2504141995 Tokyo KYODO in English 1406 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, April 25 KYODO—Japanese Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura and U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin began talks Tuesday morning on ways to curb the yen's surge against the dollar on the currency markets, Japanese sources said.

The Takemura-Rubin meeting precedes a gathering of finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations later in the day to discuss ways to remedy recent currency volatility.

Speaking to reporters upon arrival in the U.S. capital on Monday, Takemura said, "we should continue making much of cooperation in interest rate policy and market intervention" as short-run steps to stabilize foreign exchange rates.

Takemura is also expected to urge Rubin again that the United States should reduce its budget deficit as a long-term fundamental measure to shore up the ailing dollar, the sources said.

Rubin, however, said at a press briefing Monday that the U.S. budget deficit is now "the lowest or tied in the G-7" in terms of percentage of gross domestic product.

Nevertheless, the U.S. is committed to further progress in deficit-reduction in the next four years, he said.

Rubin also said Washington looks forward to the specifics of Japan's new economic package, which Takemura has vowed to show in a month or two.

In their previous talks in Bali, Indonesia, in mid-April, Takemura told Rubin the government's emergency economic package was part of its strategy to halt the yen's surge against the dollar, together with a cut in the Bank of Japan's key interest rate.

Survey Shows Small Firms Damaged by High Yen

OW2504051095 Tokyo KYODO in English 0437 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Many small Japanese firms are experiencing or expect bad effects from the yen's rapid rise in value, according to a survey released Tuesday [25 April] by a semigovernmental firm.

The survey of 200 firms nationwide was conducted by Small Business Corp. on April 17-19 with 38 percent or 77 of the firms surveyed responding.

Of the respondents, 66.3 percent said bad effects from the yen's appreciation have already appeared, while 26.0 percent said they expect them to appear in future.

Asked to give several examples of the bad effects, 57.1 percent said they have been asked by business partners to further cut costs, while 32.5 percent said orders from parent companies have declined.

A drop in exports was reported by 27.3 percent, while 16.9 percent noted stiffer competition in the domestic market, and 16.9 percent pointed to rising competition from imported products.

All responding companies which export over half their products said they are suffering severe damage due to the strong yen.

In addition, 53 percent of companies which export more than 30 percent of their products said they have been hurt considerably.

In multiple replies to a question on what measures companies would take if the yen remains strong, 54.5 percent of respondents said they would make further efforts to cut costs, while 49.4 percent said they would try to boost their technological strengths and 31.2 percent said they would turn to imported goods.

MOF Wary of Economic Impact of High Yen

OW2504024795 Tokyo KYODO in English 0238 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Japan's economy may be hurt seriously due to the yen's unchecked surge against the dollar, although it is still on a moderate recovery track, local bureaus of the Finance Ministry reported Tuesday [25 April].

Summing up economic outlook reports prepared by the ministry's 10 local finance bureaus and one regional office in Okinawa Prefecture, the Finance Ministry said, "The Japanese economy is following a moderate recovery path under the progressing adjustment of corporate plant and equipment investment."

"But the recent rapid exchange rate fluctuations are feared to cause serious effects on the economy ahead," said the ministry.

The economic reports were unveiled at a two-day meeting of local finance bureau chiefs starting Tuesday in Tokyo.

The summary of the reports said personal spending is sustaining a moderate pickup, supported by brisk demand for such durables as passenger cars and household electrical appliances.

Sales by large-scale retailers, which briefly faced a decline following the Jan. 17 earthquake in western Japan, resumed perking up recently, the reports said.

On Japan's entire manufacturing activity, the reports said a gradual recovery is being observed amid ups and downs over the recent past.

Effects on the output front from the quake are fading away while a fear of negative impact from the strong yen is being detected in local economies, the reports explained.

Adverse effects of the strong yen are also being seen on corporate earnings positions, which are deteriorating, especially among export-oriented companies, in line with the continued yen rise, said the reports.

The reports said corporate capital spending decreased in fiscal 1994, but the falling pace shrank while spending for the current year will rise in some areas.

They said housing construction, notably of condominiums and owner-occupied houses, has been staying at high levels, although that of rented houses has been slack.

On the trade front, the reports said exports are rising smoothly and imports are increasing significantly, both in terms of amount.

Prices are stable while the employment situation has yet to improve except in some areas, said the reports.

Adverse effects of the strong yen have not been very serious in the Tohoku, Shikoku and Chugoku areas, where corporate dependence on exports is relatively small, a ministry official said.

But the reports from these areas said close monitoring is needed to check the strong yen's possible economic effects in the months ahead.

Negative effects from the currency trend, however, have emerged in other areas, with most companies in the Tokai region, for example, suffering losses due to the yen's rapid gain, the official said.

Concerning the effects of the Kobe earthquake, the chief of the Kinki Finance Bureau in western Japan reported that the overall economy in his area has resumed its moderate recovery, the official said.

Since the beginning of February, personal spending has been perking up while manufacturing activity has returned to prequake levels, the bureau chief was quoted as saying.

Infrastructure-related reconstruction in the damaged areas is almost completed, especially of utilities and other public infrastructure, he said.

But most of the collapsed commercial-sector buildings have been left virtually untouched since the quake, with reconstruction still in the stage of removing debris, according to the bureau chief.

He was quoted as saying that about 30 percent of the debris had been cleared by the end of March.

As to industrial activity in the quake-hit areas, factory operation has resumed to a significant extent, he said.

About 70 percent of manufacturers of synthetic-rubber shoes, who are concentrated in the damaged areas, have resumed production, using temporary plants, he said.

Employment in some areas in the Kinki region is showing signs of picking up but the situation is still serious in areas directly hit by the earthquake, he said.

Idea Floated To Place More Emphasis on Mark

OW2504020695 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 22 Apr 95 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] There has emerged an idea within the ruling parties, which are at a loss what further effective measures they can take to deal with the yen's rise, to boost the ratio of the German mark and thus de-emphasize the dollar, which is the key currency, in Japan's foreign currency reserves held by the Bank of Japan [BOJ]. Shunjiro Karasawa, head of the Economic and Price Affairs Committee of the Liberal Democratic party [LDP], urged the government to consider such a plan at a session of the lower house budget committee on 20 April. However, critics warn that such a plan could adversely cause the further appreciation of the yen and plunge of the dollar and affect the international monetary system which bases its currency on the dollar. Since there is mounting frustration within the government and ruling parties over Washington's attitude of apparently "recognizing the weaker dollar," the plan can also be taken as "lip-service" aimed at holding the United States, whose currency is the key currency of the world, in check.

Support for the idea is particularly strong among LDP policymakers. In terms of the fact that the real value of Japan's foreign currency reserves, amounting over $141.5 billion has declined drastically, they believe "such an idea will serve to encourage discourse on the possible review of the key currency system."

Answering Mr. Karasawa's question at the lower house budget committee session on 20 April, Sakigake [Harbinger Party] head and Finance Minister Takemura said "I will keep your opinion in mind," without either agreeing to such an idea or rejecting it. His answer gave the impression that the government and the coalition are trying to take coordinated action on the idea.

Foreign currency reserves are the total amount of reserve assets held by the BOJ, including currencies of major countries, gold, and special drawing rights (SDR), and are used when the government makes foreign payments, including import settlement. As of February 1995, Japan's foreign currency reserves were approximately $125.9 billion, of which foreign currencies accounted for $115.9 billion. However, the dollar's rate has dropped to Y80 level recently despite the fact that it was Y99 level at the time of compiling the original budget for fiscal 1995. Given such a situation, the real value of the dollar—which accounts for the most of the foreign currencies possessed by the BOJ—has continued to fall.

The intercoalition idea of reviewing foreign currency reserves is aimed at encouraging the yen to drop and the dollar to rise in the mid-to-long run by purchasing stable marks and German bonds instead of selling the dollar and U.S. national bonds. With a view that "the United States' lack of sense of crisis against the dollar's fall is a major cause of the yen's appreciation" (according to LDP Policy Research Council Chairman Kato), it is possible for the government to urge the United States to shift its attitude of "allowing the dollar to fall" while making Washington recognize "its responsibility as the key currency nation." The ruling coalition plans to set the idea as the second eye-catching measure following the previously announced plan to "cut the trade surplus by half." However, since there is a growing atmosphere of placing more emphasis on the idea as "a message to the United States," the second measure can be regarded as clumsy one.

Industrialist Proposes Numerical Import Targets

OW2504121995 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN in Japanese 17 Apr 95 Morning Edition p 7

[Articl from "Seiron" column: "'Setting Numerical Targets for Import Proposed' by Kyocera Corporation Chairman Kazuo Inamori"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Industrial Circles Suffering From "Triple Difficulties"**

After the collapse of the bubble economy, many Japanese firms have been suffering from long-lasting recession, wherein real estate prices are dropping and stock prices are uncertain. Such factors are creating considerable potential for losses for most companies. Given such a serious situation, despite the fact that Japanese industries were recently dealt a serious blow by the great Hanshin earthquake, they are now being dealt a stronger, crushing blow by the recent appreciation of the yen.

Under such a severe economic environment, relations between Japan and the United States—which are said to be the most important bilateral relations in the world and in which the two nations are deeply interdependent—are faced with crisis. This is because Japan-U.S. negotiations on autos and auto parts, which have become a focal point in the Japan-U.S. economic framework talks, are showing clear signs of rupture. At an early stage of the negotiations, the U.S. delegates urged Japanese counterparts to set up numerical targets for Japan's imports of U.S.-made autos and auto parts. However, because of Tokyo's firm rejection, Washington withdrew its request for setting up numerical targets early this year and began to call for increasing Japan's purchases of U.S.-made products by taking formal measures.

On the contrary, the Japanese side has warned that the United States' recent calls themselves are unreasonable and may be running counter to the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Meanwhile, the United States has said that if Japan refuses to increase its imports of U.S.-made products, it will impose sanctions based on Article 301 of the Omnibus Trade Act (for identifying unfair trade partners and imposing sanctions against them). In this way, Japan-U.S. relations are falling into a very dangerous situation. I am concerned that if such bilateral relations, which are the foundation of the Japanese economy, should break, the Japanese economy would be faced with ruin.

As one of the most effective means to help the Japanese economy tide over the difficult situation, I think that Japan should voluntary set up numerical targets for its imports and steadily act on those targets. By setting up numerical targets, it will be possible to make clear that Japan's trade surplus will be reduced by all means. Then the United States will assess that Japan is a reliable partner, and the upward trend of the yen will be corrected.

Yen's Hike Caused by Huge Trade Surplus

In the past, Japan has stressed that it is necessary to defend the free trade system. However, foreign nations have criticized what Japan has actually done, saying that "while increasing exports of its products to foreign nations which do not have trade regulations, Japan itself restricts its imports to a minimum level by establishing many regulations." Their criticism is reasonable. Actually, Japan has produced a huge trade surplus, amounting to Y100 billion every year, and such a trade surplus has led to the yen's appreciation and made Japan-U.S. relations uncertain.

If the Japanese Government believes its imports will increase some day and its trade will be balanced, I think it is utterly irresponsible. The world economy will not allow Japan's trade to remain imbalanced. What Japan has to do is to set and show both at home and abroad a specific goal of balancing its trade by increasing imports.

Some might say that setting up numerical targets runs counter to the principles of business. In business, normally, sellers establish sales targets. But buyers do not set up targets because they buy products after surveying prices, quality, and delivery schedules of goods. But it is possible for the buyers to set up purchase targets if the sellers, after thorough business talks with the buyers, pledge to make efforts to satisfy the buyers with the prices, quality, and delivery schedules of their goods. I think there is no problem setting up numerical targets for imports after having thorough talks with the United States if the U.S. makers pledge to make all-out efforts to satisfy Japanese consumers and end users.

Here is an example: a semiconductor accord was concluded in order to drastically rectify the trade imbalance in semiconductors. The accord, which was concluded in 1986 and took effect in 1991, specifies that Japan import foreign-made semiconductors to increase the foreign producers' share of the Japanese market to 20 percent. But the Japanese side refused to officially approve such a target, regarding it as a bad example for Japan-U.S. trade.

However, the result was excellent. Thanks to Japanese manufacturers' earnest efforts to purchase foreign semiconductors, a share of the foreign semiconductors in the

Japanese market has reached 24 percent at present. One may think such a share has dealt a hard blow to the Japanese semiconductor makers. It has not. Actually, both Japanese and U.S. semiconductor makers have made excellent achievements. If the target share was not set at the time the accord was concluded, the trade imbalance in semiconductors would have continued, and trade disputes would have remain unsettled. In short, it was considerably beneficial for the two nations to make clear the target share.

Numerical Target Needed To Maintain Free Trade System

There may be criticism that setting up numerical targets would lead to managed trade. But it is necessary to forcibly balance trade under the situation wherein trade is overly imbalanced in order to normalize trade relations with a trade partner and defend the free trade system. This is proved by the semiconductor pact.

To make the Japanese economy as well as the world economy healthier, Japan should voluntary set up specific numerical targets for its imports and make clear its stand of reducing the trade surplus. Seeing such a position, foreign nations will appraise anew Japan as a nation that does not stick to its own interests but can act for the improvement of the world economy. Moreover, the excessive upward trend of the yen would also be corrected.

Toyoda Criticizes Calls for Export Restraints

OW2504081195 Tokyo KYODO in English 0758 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—The chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) on Tuesday criticized calls in the business community for export restraints to help arrest the yen's appreciation on the foreign exchange market.

Shoichiro Toyoda told reporters that he believes such views are "mistaken," adding Japan should seek an equilibrium in its trade while expanding both exports and imports.

Commenting on a proposal that Japan should set a numerical target for reducing its current account surplus, Toyoda said there is no harm in setting such a target but that Japan should not be bound by it.

Russians Arrive From Kurils on Exchange Program

OW2304032295 Tokyo KYODO in English 0245 GMT 23 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nemuro, Japan, April 23 KYODO—The year's first group of Russians on a visa-free exchange program arrived Sunday [23 April] by ship at Hanasaki Port in Nemuro on Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido, local officials said.

The 73 Russians, ranging in age from 19 to 65, include administrative officials and agriculture-related people from the disputed Russian-held islands of Kunashiri, Shikotan and Etorofu [Kuril Islands], they said.

The group is scheduled to stay five nights and six days. Exchange programs include factory inspections, visits to homes, home stays, and Japanese-language lessons in Nemuro, the easternmost city on Hokkaido, and neighboring towns, the officials said.

The visa-free exchange program between Hokkaido and the four Russian-held islands claimed by Japan started four years ago.

Tokyo, Moscow Officials Review 'Hashimoto Plan'

OW1804010995 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 14 Apr 95 Evening Edition p 3

[By reporter Toshihiko Kaya]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 13 Apr—Japanese and Russian Government officials gathered in Moscow on 13 April to hold their first meeting to review the "Russian Trade and Industries Aid Plan" (known as the Hashimoto plan) and worked out an action program for FY95. Regarding efforts to help promote Russian exports to Japan, the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) plans to send experts to look for Russian products that look promising for marketing to Japan, as well as to build a data bank concerning potential Russian exporters and Japanese importers. JETRO also plans to continue guiding Russian firms in their restructuring efforts and continue helping foster medium and small businesses in the country.

EU Import Ban on Seafood Examined

OW2204010895 Tokyo KYODO in English 0029 GMT 22 Apr 95

["News Focus: EU's Import Ban on Seafoods Shifting to Supervisory Issue"—KYODO headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 22 KYODO—The European Commission's decision to ban imports of all Japanese marine products into the European Union (EU) on the grounds of hygiene has provoked a domestic controversy over sanitary supervision among central and local governments, analysts say.

The EU banned imports of all marine products from Japan in early April, reviving a ban lifted in April 1994, on the basis of on-the-spot inspections of six Japanese processing plants in late March.

Imports into the EU of all marine products originating from Japan will be suspended "until there is an improvement in hygiene and product control," the EC said in its decision.

The diplomatic issue, however, is being overshadowed by the domestic issue of the supervising systems adopted by authorities at such processing facilities.

An EC report said, "Japanese administrative authorities, such as the Ministry of Health and Welfare, have neglected to make adequate checkups of the processing plants and have put hygienically dangerous plants on the list of appropriate factories."

Guy Legras, director general at the EC's Directorate-General of Agriculture, said in his letter to Japan's ambassador to the EU that the result of recent on-site inspections of Japanese marine processing systems by an EU mission "was extremely disappointing and disturbing."

A three-man EC mission conducted inspections in Aomori, Miyagi and Kanagawa prefectures from March 27 to 31. The EU decided on the ban on April 7, seven days after the completion of the inspections.

After official notification of the ban reached Tokyo, Toshio Tsuruoka, administrative vice minister for agriculture, forestry and fisheries, told reporters he does not think the plants have any hygiene problems.

But later, Shoichi Ide, minister of health and welfare, admitted there was some truth in the report's criticism of Japanese authorities for failing to make adequate hygiene checks of seafood processing plants.

An official of the ministry said, "It's a pity that some Japanese marine food processing companies do not have the sense to abide by the sanitary criteria set by the EU, while the South Koreans have strictly kept them in view of their own exports to Europe."

A public sanitary division official in Aomori Prefecture hinted that all responsibility regarding the EU's ban should be with the food processing companies, saying, "All a local government like us can do is just to trust data submitted by such companies. How can we conduct detailed inspection across the prefecture?"

In response, a major fishery company official said that plants authorized by the Health Ministry for exports to the EU "must have no sanitary problems."

Despite such remarks from the private sector, sources familiar with the issue said it was true that EU inspectors had a bad impression after their on-site inspections of plants in March.

For instance, the inspectors discovered, in a scallop processing plant in Aomori, cartons containing scallops in plastic bags bearing French-language labels saying they were frozen on April 10, 1990, and that their period of freshness ended April 10, 1992, the sources said.

Naturally, the inspection team was not satisfied with the explanation offered by the plant that they were using spare old containers but that the contents were new, they said.

Many seafood processors in Aomori believed the central and local governments were to blame for the hygiene troubles.

A president of a seafood processing company, based in the city of Aomori, said, "If plants in Aomori are all unhygienic, other scallop factories in the rest of Japan and even in France can by no means meet the EU's requirements."

In point of fact, complaints from seafood processors were based on another factor, food industry sources said.

Scallop factories in Aomori had earlier given up the idea of shipments to Europe for 1995 since the Ministry of Health and Welfare had delayed submitting the necessary documents concerning scallop exports to the EU. As a result, such plants decided to ship their products only to the domestic market, they said.

Some seafood processors are wondering why the EU's hygiene standard should be applied to products to be consumed only in Japan, an industry analyst said.

But at the same time, he said, "Japanese consumers may well express fears when they learn they are being provided with seafood which fails to meet the EU's sanitary requirements."

Taiwan Urges Tokyo To Invite Li To APEC

OW2404033395 Taipei CNA in English 0131 GMT 24 Apr 95

[By Victor Lai and Lilian Wu]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 22 (CNA)—A visiting Republic of China [ROC] official said here Saturday [22 April] that Japan should invite ROC President Li Teng-hui to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum leaders' meeting based on its "judgment and moral courage."

Hsiao Wan-chang, the chairman of the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC), made the remarks while meeting with Taipei reporters stationed in Japan. The MAC is a cabinet-level government agency set up to chart policy toward Mainland China.

Hsiao said Japan should allow Li to attend the meeting, since APEC is a nonpolitical organization and because Li is an expert in agronomics and one of the few leaders that has such a background.

Hsiao stressed that in the past two years, Li has not attended the informal APEC leaders' meeting, partly because of the opposition from Mainland China and partly because of domestic elections. He said that although he has represented Li at the two meetings, he does not want his presence at the meeting instead of Li to "become a practice."

He said that it would be best if leaders of both sides of the Taiwan Strait could meet at a "natural" occasion such as the APEC meeting.

Turning to the sharp appreciation of Japanese yen recently, Hsiao said that the yen's rise has been both an advantage and disadvantage to Taiwan's economy.

He said the yen's appreciation has not only given a shot in the arm to Taiwan exports, but may also force Japanese hi-tech enterprises to move production lines overseas, including to Taiwan.

But Hsiao said that some of Taiwan's major imports from Japan cannot be bought from other countries at the moment, which could pose a potential threat to domestic prices and cause the appreciation of the new Taiwan dollar.

Keidanren Faces 'Silent Protest' From Malaysia

OW2004122895 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 18 Apr 95 Morning Edition p 9

[By Junichi Yoshimi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuala Lumpur—The Japan Federation of Economic Organizations [Keidanren] delegation (led by Chairman Shoichiro Toyoda), now visiting the Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia, is wedged between the Japanese Government and Malaysia. The Japanese Government has been taking undetermined attitudes toward its participation in the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC) proposed by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. In addition, it has recently decided not to attend the conference of economic ministers of "ASEAN plus Japan, China, and the ROK" scheduled for late this month. Prime Minister Mahathir canceled his meeting with Chairman Toyoda, saying he was too busy with general elections, and scheduled meetings with cabinet ministers were also canceled. It appears Malaysia is addressing silent protests to Japan's undetermined attitudes.

When the delegation met with Malaysian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry leaders on 14 April, many Malaysian business leaders questioned Japan's EAEC attitude.

Malaysian executives stressed "the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum is controlled by the United States, and it does not pay adequate attention to opinions of less powerful nations like Malaysia" and "we proposed the EAEC to create more opportunities to speak our opinions." In response, Toyoda said: "The United States and Asia are both important markets for Japan. I consider the EAEC concept a proposed within the APEC framework, and the EAEC and APEC have the same goal." However, he did not show positive support for the EAEC, noting "political difficulties" related to Japan's relations with the United States.

Malaysia has been expressing its hope for the initiative of Japan, a "major Asian power," as a mediator between the United States and Asia. However, Malaysian public and private sectors both harbor distrust of Japan over the EAEC issue.

Japanese businesses in Malaysia sensitively feel the worsening mood. Mitsui Corporation Managing Director Kazumasa Suzuki noted he often faces Malaysian business expressions of discontent with Japan. He showed his concern over Japan's worsening image in Asia, saying: "The entire ASEAN would stand against Japan if Japan opposes the EAEC."

Keidanren does not clarify its EAEC stance in consideration for the Japanese Government and the United States. However, worsened relations with Asia would directly damage the Japanese business circles. If Chairman Toyoda really believes "all Asian nations are trying their best to develop themselves," he must clarify the Japanese business circles' stance toward this issue without restraint for government-level tactics.

Article Views Asian Nuclear Energy Development

OW2404124795 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 13 Apr 95 Morning Edition p 3

[By Tatsutoshi Yue and Takashi Ohsaki]

[FBIS Translated Text] Asian countries are showing their desire to develop nuclear energy. Many countries attended an annual 3-day meeting of Japan Atomic Industrial Forum Inc., which is composed of nuclear reactor manufacturers and power companies. It is chaired by Takashi Mukaibo. At the meeting held in Tokyo until 12 April, China, South Korea, Indonesia, and other countries introduced their plans to construct nuclear power stations. These countries are troubled with a shortage of electric power, which supports economic development. The United States and Japan tried to discourage other countries from building nuclear power plants, saying: "We are worried that hasty nuclear energy development may be linked to nuclear proliferation and safety negligence." Contrary to this concern, however, it seems that Japan and the United States are trying not to lose their chance of making inroads into potentially huge markets. Meanwhile, antinuclear groups are wary of Japan's full-scale exports of nuclear power plants and are beginning to promote exchanges with their counterparts in other countries.

China Plans To Recycle Nuclear Fuel

Zhang Huazhu, vice president of China National Nuclear Industry Corporation, explained China's need to build more nuclear power stations, saying: "Energy shortages will be an obstacle to our economic development. The peaceful utilization of nuclear energy is a legitimate right of the developing countries."

China's economy grew by 11.8 percent in 1994 (according to the Asia Development Bank). China is promoting nuclear energy development as an energy source that will replace oil or coal, and succeeded in operating its first nuclear power plant last year.

Among other things, China disclosed plans to start operating a recycling facility designed to extract plutonium from used nuclear fuel by 2010, and to complete construction of a fast-breeder reactor by the beginning of the 2000's. The recycling facility China plans to build is almost as big as a privately-owned plant which is being constructed at Rokkashomura in Aomori Prefecture. It is a large facility.

Countries which already have nuclear power plants—including South Korea and India—and Indonesia and Vietnam, which want to build nuclear power plants, also disclosed their plans. Many countries said that construction of "nuclear power plants is an unavoidable choice" (according to a Vietnamese representative).

Meanwhile, a South Korean representative said: "South Korea, which is one of the developing countries, can give ideal technological support for each country." In this way, South Korea its strong desire to find a market for "South Korean-type" light-water reactor said to be an improved version of a U.S. reactor.

Japan Is Lagging Behind Other Countries in Making Inroads Into Huge Markets

Reacting to the zeal of each country at the meeting, Tokio Kano, director of Tokyo Electric Power Company, pointed out: "We will be in grave trouble if an accident occurs because of insufficient safety measures. If a country is suspected of developing nuclear weapons, the entire world will be threatened. 'Safety' and 'nonproliferation of nuclear weapons' are indispensable to the development of nuclear energy in Asia."

Ivan Selin, chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Power Regulatory Commission, and others indirectly expressed their desire to stop China, which is a nuclear state, from becoming a major nuclear power. At the same time, however, Selin did not forget to add that "nuclear energy development in Asia requires international cooperation from such countries as the United States and Japan."

Although the United States has been exporting nuclear power plants to the ROK and Taiwan, it is lagging behind Britain and France in making inroads into the Chinese market. Therefore, the United States is trying to quickly recover from the delay by dispatching an investigation team composed of members of the government and private sector to China. It costs several billion dollars to build a nuclear power plant capable of generating one million kilowatts of electricity. Asia is a huge market. The U.S. nuclear power industry, which are facing declining demand for nuclear power plants at home, must make inroads into Asian market.

Japan is in a similar situation. At a discussion session with general participants, Kazuhisa Mori, director of Japan Atomic Industrial Forum Inc., rolled out a map which shows the flags of countries which are taking part in projects for building nuclear power plans in Asia. But the "rising sun" flag is not on the map.

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries of Japan once delivered a reactor pressurizer to Taishan Nuclear Plant in China. Another case involves an allied company of the Kansai Electric Power Company which is conducting a feasibility study as a part of the project for building a nuclear power plant on Java Island in Indonesia.

A senior official of Japan Atomic Industrial Forum Inc. said: "The government should improve conditions to enable companies to export nuclear power plants to the markets in Asia." Nuclear energy industries are calling for the formation of a regional cooperative body called "Pacific Atom" as a Pacific version of European Nuclear Energy Community because they are worried that Japan may be left behind other countries unless it does something to improve these conditions.

Since last year, the Nuclear Energy Department and Subcommittee for International Issues of the Advisory Committee for Energy, which is an advisory organization of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI], have been studying methods of international cooperation.

Accidents Know No Boundaries

Symposiums were held last month in Tokyo and Osaka to express opposition to Japan's nuclear power plant exports. They were sponsored by the "Campaign To Stop Nuclear Power Plants," which is composed of Japanese and South Korean antinuclear groups. They are cautious of the feasibility study by Kansai Electric Power Company's allied firm, saying that it is the first step toward full-scale exports of nuclear power plants.

Tomoko Hama of Yokohama City, who is a member of the group, said: "European countries and the United States are moving toward giving up nuclear power stations. They should not force dangerous forms of nuclear energy on Asia. Indonesia is suppressing its antinuclear movement and information is not freely available to the public."

Satomi Oniwa—representative of "Plutonium-Action-Hiroshima II," which is an organization that opposes Japan's utilization of plutonium—said: "Some people think it is a matter of course for Asian nations to introduce nuclear power plants. However, accidents know no national boundaries."

Murayama To Offer Environmental Aid to PRC

OW2504080995 Tokyo KYODO in English 0747 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama will promise a package of environmental assistance to China when he visits the country May 2-6, government officials said Tuesday.

Japan will pledge to dispatch researchers and provide the latest pollution prevention techniques to promote cooperation on the environment.

The assistance will be offered through an environmental conservation institute to be completed in Beijing this fall with full assistance from Tokyo, they said.

The institute aims to gather and analyze environmental data, research and develop pollution prevention techniques and train personnel, and is expected to be a national hub of an environmental observation network covering the whole of China.

It will have several hundred staff members in the future. Japan has provided all of the facility's construction costs by extending about 10 billion yen in grant aid.

With rapid economic development in China, environmental problems have become serious, including growing air and water pollution and an increase in industrial waste. In particular, a rapidly increasing amount of sulfur dioxide, which causes acid rain, has been emitted into the air.

Conditions are expected to worsen in the 21st century, and also to affect the Japanese environment. During his visit, Murayama is scheduled to meet president Jiang Zemin and premier Li Peng.

Officials Address Docking of Nuclear Waste Ship

OW2504060595 Tokyo KYODO in English 0524 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rokkasho, Japan, April 25 KYODO—Central government officials scrambled Tuesday [25 April] to pave the way for a British ship carrying high-level radioactive waste back from France to dock at a port in northern Japan.

Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama called a meeting involving cabinet members concerned to look for ways to allow the Pacific Pintail to dock at Mutsu Ogawara Port in Aomori Prefecture.

Murayama instructed Science and Technology Agency Chief Makiko Tanaka to continue efforts to persuade Aomori Gov. Morio Kimura to allow the ship to dock at Mutsu Ogawara Port.

The meeting followed Kimura's refusal to allow the ship to enter the port on the grounds that the central government has failed to make a clear pledge that the waste will not be stored permanently in the prefecture.

"It's much to be regretted that the governor's understanding could not be obtained. It's unexpected," Tanaka said at a press conference in Tokyo.

Tanaka said Kimura telephoned her Monday night to ask her to issue a document pledging not to store the nuclear waste permanently in the region.

Tanaka said she issued a statement in which she "pledges to make it sure" that the governor's view will be followed.

But Tanaka said Kimura told her that the statement lacked clarity in meaning.

"I met earlier with Gov. Kimura to brief him on the situation and got his understanding, so what is left unresolved is a matter of language," Tanaka said.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi said in a separate press conference that the central government will wait for the results of talks between the Aomori Prefectural Government and the Science and Technology Agency before taking any action on the shipment of the waste.

"The Science and Technology agency has been engaged in serious discussion with the (prefectural) government since yesterday. We'd like to watch the development of those talks closely," Igarashi said.

The Pacific Pintail arrived at the port Tuesday morning carrying 14 tons of nuclear waste left over from the process of reprocessing spent fuel sent from Japan.

The waste is to be kept cool at a storage facility for 30-50 years in a nuclear complex at Rokkasho Village near the port, but it remains undecided how to dispose of the waste eventually.

The shipment of the waste is the first of several to Japan planned over the next decade after reprocessing by the French state nuclear power company Cogema and a British nuclear power firm called BNFL.

Japan Nuclear Fuel Ltd., a company owned mainly by Japan's nine major electric power companies that sent the spent fuel to France, alluded to the possibility of the ship remaining anchored off Mutsu Ogawara Port for the rest of the day.

"Given the time needed for unloading before the sun sets, 1 [0400 GMT] or 2 o'clock in the afternoon is a time limit," Japan Nuclear Fuel Managing Director Hiroshi Tonouchi said at a press conference at the port.

Meanwhile, about 400 residents and environmentalists rallied near the port in protest of the unloading of the nuclear waste, while riot police were mobilized to guard the port.

Some praised Kimura for refusing to allow the Pacific Pintail to enter the port. "Mr. Kimura did a good job," one rallier said.

Unloading of Nuclear Waste Postponed

OW2504073595 Tokyo KYODO in English 0646 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rokkasho, Japan, April 25 KYODO—The unloading of a shipment of reprocessed nuclear fuel that arrived in northern Japan from France on Tuesday [25 April] will be postponed to Wednesday or later, Japan Nuclear Fuel Ltd. said Tuesday.

The company, owned mainly by Japan's nine major electric power companies that sent the spent fuel to

France, made the decision after it failed to win permission from Aomori Gov. Morio Kimura to let the ship dock at Mutsu Ogawara Port in Aomori Prefecture.

Kimura refused to allow the ship to enter the port on the grounds that the central government has failed to make a clear pledge that the waste will not be stored permanently in the prefecture.

The British-registered Pacific Pintail, loaded with high-level radioactive waste, which was anchored off Mutsu Ogawara Port, has left the port to anchor some 30 kilometers off the coast for safety reasons.

At a news conference at the port earlier Tuesday, Japan Nuclear Fuel Managing Director Hiroshi Tonouchi hinted at the delay, saying, "given the time needed for unloading before the sun sets, 1 or 2 o'clock in the afternoon is the time limit." In Tokyo, government officials scrambled to pave the way for unloading of the hazardous shipment.

Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama called a meeting of cabinet members concerned to discuss ways to break the standoff and instructed Science and Technology Agency chief Makiko Tanaka to continue efforts to persuade the Aomori governor to allow the ship to dock at Mutsu Ogawara Port.

"It's regrettable that the governor's understanding could not be obtained. It's unexpected," Tanaka said at a news conference in Tokyo.

Tanaka said Kimura telephoned her Monday night to ask her to issue a document pledging not to store the nuclear waste permanently in the region. Tanaka said she issued a statement in which she "pledges to make sure" that the governor's view will be followed. But Tanaka said Kimura told her that the statement lacked clarity in meaning.

"I met earlier with Gov. Kimura to brief him on the situation and got his understanding, so what is left unresolved is a matter of language," Tanaka said.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi said in a separate news conference that the central government will wait for the results of talks between the Aomori Prefectural Government and the Science and Technology Agency before taking any action on the shipment of waste.

"The Science and Technology Agency has been engaged in serious discussion with the (prefectural) government since yesterday. We'd like to watch the development of those talks closely," Igarashi said.

The Pacific Pintail arrived at the port Tuesday morning carrying 14 tons of nuclear waste left over from the reprocessing of the spent fuel sent from Japan. The waste is to be kept cool at a storage facility for 30-50 years in a nuclear complex at Rokkasho village near the port, but how to eventually dispose of the waste remains undecided.

The shipment of the waste is the first of several to Japan planned over the next decade after reprocessing by the French state nuclear power company Cogema and a British nuclear power firm called BNFL.

Meanwhile, about 400 residents and environmentalists rallied near the port to protest the unloading of the waste, and riot police were mobilized to guard the port. Some praised Kimura for refusing to allow the Pacific Pintail to enter the port. "Mr. Kimura did a good job," one rallier said.

Series on Development of Low-Pollution Buses

Hino HIMR Viewed

OW2404140495 Tokyo JIDOSHA KOGAKU in Japanese Apr 95 pp 164-170

[Article by Takashi Seino]

[FBIS Translated Text] In previous issues of this magazine, we reported on the state of development of low-emission buses in Japan as observed at low-emission vehicle (LEV) fairs (see September and October 1994 issues). In this series, we offer a field report on such vehicles in actual operation, based on test rides on three types of these low-emission buses and field inspection of a fourth type. You might think of the report on the LEV fairs as a kind of "stationary report," while this is an "mobile report."

The buses observed for this series were the Hino HIMR and Mitsubishi MBECS hybrid buses, the Isuzu Engine On/Off model, and the Hino LPG Blended Fuel model. As of March 1994, Tokyo's Bureau of Transportation had 1994 "city buses" in operation, of which 1,879 (94 percent) ran on 153 regularly scheduled routes. Together they cover an average of around 20,000 kilometers a day. These are the stalwarts of the public bus system in Japan's capital. The four types of buses being reviewed here have been given catchy names and set running regularly on six routes in an effort to improve the image of city buses. These innovative new low-emission buses have been given catchy nicknames and put into operation at six bus depots in the heart of Tokyo, partly in an effort to enhance the image of city buses in general. The routes in question are busy showcase routes on which buses conveniently arrive throughout the day on average of once every five minutes so that patrons do not have to wait long. Many of them are the most up-to-date models, including some with lifts for the handicapped, and of course the LEV's under consideration here. These routes are also some of the biggest money earners for the respective bus depots that service them. When it comes to low-emission buses operated by the Tokyo city government, there are 24 Hino HIMR vehicles assigned to three depots, one Mitsubishi MBECS (equipped with the Motor Vehicle Brake Energy Conservation System) at one depot, four Isuzu idle/stop-type vehicles (engine On/Off-type) at one depot, and five Hino LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) mixed fuel-system vehicles at four depots. Considering that there are also plans to acquire a number of LNG (liquefied natural gas)-powered buses in the near future, it is clear that the Tokyo Metropolitan Government remains enthusiastic about introducing LEVs into its bus fleet. Incidentally, as of 1989, buses meeting NOx emission standards numbered 943 (47 percent of the fleet). While working on this story, our staff concentrated on the following four questions for all four models. (1) Are the new buses really enjoying improved fuel efficiency? (2) What difficulties if any have been encountered? (3) How do drivers rate the new buses in operation as compared to conventional models? (4) How do passengers react to the new buses? We also took test rides on three types of the new buses, and will describe in this article and the follow-up next month what conditions we encountered during those test runs.

The Hino HIMR Type

In the past on several occasions this magazine has spotlighted this electric motor (modulator)/generator cum diesel engine hybrid system vehicle that took Hino Motors, Ltd. more than 10 years to develop.

According to the manufacturer's catalog, the system works as follows. Energy released when the vehicle brakes is recycled and stored in the batteries. When the vehicle immediately starts up again and accelerates, this energy is released to drive the engine. This power is supplemented by the gas oil-driven diesel engine. The catalog explains that this system is designed so that the load on the diesel engine will be lightened, thereby reducing the amount of pollutants in the exhaust gas, and recycling braking energy that was previously lost as heat, resulting in roughly 10 percent better fuel efficiency. It also claims that noise is noticeably reduced. In preparing this article I sought to verify these manufacturer claims by checking fuel efficiency data at a bus operations office that directly manages this vehicle, listening to the observations of bus drivers, and by taking test rides experiencing directly the sensations that passengers feel. HIMR buses based at the Meguro depot ply seven routes, including one running between the busy Shibuya and Shimbashi districts. These "Green Echo" buses have covered a total of 63,000 kilometers since 1993.

I found that when it came to fuel efficiency, the HIMR buses unexpectedly are only on a par with conventional buses or even consume more fuel than they do.

Currently fuel consumption control for city buses is based on monthly averaged computations of the individual city bus depots, based on the total consumption level and total distance covered. The 17 depots are home to an average of 117 vehicles each. This constitutes the "gross quantity control" system.

All the buses at the Meguro Depot are Hino products. Those that run on the generally flat routes between Shibuya and Shimbashi (a distance of about 40 kilometers round-trip) have recorded averages of 2.37 km/liter to 2.49 km/liter during seasons when the air conditioners are not in use and 1.89 km/liter to 2.14 km/liters when they are. The average daily fuel refilling level for the average bus on these routes is 50 liters, compared to 60 liters for the HIMR vehicles only. That means that the latter have roughly 20 percent worse fuel consumption on the average.

The data in materials distributed by the manufacturer is totally based on figures obtained by its in-house testing. The data gathered for this article is based on real fuel consumption by vehicles in commercial operation. It shows the actual long-term average values to be greater than Hino's test values. The question is why fuel consumption improvement has not come anywhere near matching expectations. I surmise the reasons for the situation to be as follows. This hybrid system uses electricity, obtained from storage batteries that have a relatively low energy conversion efficiency ratio. Loss occurs when regenerated energy in the form of electrical power flows into or out of the batteries. This loss can add up to a fairly substantial level. If the energy generated when a bus accelerates or brakes that becomes potentially available for recycling were assigned a theoretical value of 100, then the energy that is actually put to use through regeneration would be less than 30.

In effect, I believe that the regenerated energy is not in itself sufficient for adequate acceleration efficiency. So what I believe happens is that while the vehicle is running a considerable amount of electricity must be drained off from the alternator in order for sufficient electric power to become available to the system.

In addition the system weighs about 1.1 ton, which means that compared to conventional buses these new buses are heavier both in terms of vehicle weight itself and gross vehicle weight by that much difference.

Furthermore, if regenerated energy were available in the form of electrical power, it would only seem natural that the governance system would decrease the amount of fuel being injected into the engine. However, what we actually observe is that fuel expenditure is higher than for a similar conventional engine, with the engine running on the highest output and torque settings.

Furthermore, I have a suspicion that the frequency of times in which drivers feel they do not have sufficient power is greater than normally would be expected, and as a result they are staying in low gear for a longer period of time than usual. That in turn would make for more engine revolutions.

For that reason, I think it is fair to concur with this comment from someone who has had a lot of experience with these vehicles. That is: "A comparatively underpowered vehicle does not enjoy as good fuel consumption as a vehicle with a large engine. So in many cases if the vehicle weight and gross vehicle weight are the same, the engine that produces the most power does better when it comes to fuel consumption."

The foregoing data would also go to explain why clutch adjustments for the new vehicles are necessary more frequently than for their conventional counterparts, about once a month for the former.

Data on fuel consumption trends for the HIMR buses also indicates a rise in total exhaust gas levels, which raises doubts as to whether they are really effective in decreasing pollutants. Drivers told me that when starting or accelerating, in checking their side mirrors they could hardly observe any black smoke being emitted, which pleased them. (That was especially true at night when they could observe the situation well in the headlights of vehicles behind them.) They also found that when they started the engine of a HIMR bus, they did not hear the sound you usually get with a conventional bus engine and that the buses ran very quietly. The drivers also found that once they had gotten accustomed to the HIMR vehicles, they had no anxiety in operating them. The HIMR's retardor functions are controlled through the use of an activator switch. The fourth stage level is connected to the same circuit as the exhaust brake, but the fourth stage hardly ever seems to be used.

How do these HIMR retardor functions operate effectively, and how is the original engine brake function controlled? With conventional engines, when the engine brake is in use, fuel injection is stopped or curtailed. But how do things work for the HIMR buses?

When I took test rides on some HIMR vehicles, I noticed that even when I sat towards the rear of the vehicle near the engine, strange noises of sudden jolts were nonexistent, and I felt that they were rather quieter than their conventional counterparts. I also got the feeling that their engine brakes worked somewhat better than those in conventional buses. The bus depot officials told me that during the roughly 15 months they have been using the HIMR buses they have had almost no major problems with them.

During this period, the manufacturer conducted periodic inspections, and after 10 months the battery systems were returned to the factory for inspection. Major maintenance has yet to be conducted by the bus authority, so that only the future will tell whether that will prove a problem.

It is estimated that the cost of replacing a HIMR battery system is in the neighborhood of 1 million. If the city has to do this every two or three years at its own cost, this could become quite a burden. The next article in this series will focus on Mitsubishi MBECS hybrid buses in uses at the Meguro Depot.

MBECS Bus Profiled

OW2404140795 Tokyo JIDOSHA KOGAKU in Japanese Apr 95 pp 148-155

[Article by Susumu Enchi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following up on our March report on the Hino HIMR bus, in this issue we look at three other kinds of innovative city buses: the Mitsubishi MBECS (Motor Vehicle Brake Energy Conservation System) bus, the Isuzu Idle Stop (Engine On/Off System) bus, and the Hino LPG (Liquid Petroleum Gas System) Mixed Fuel bus.

MBECS Bus

The Motor Vehicle Brake Energy Conservation System (MBECS) bus is a "hybrid vehicle using a oil pressure hydraulic system" that Mitsubishi Motors Corporation developed based on a European model. The system works as follows. Energy produced when the vehicle decelerates or brakes is recycled, then stored under oil pressure in a giant accumulator. The next time that the vehicle accelerates, this energy is regenerated for the drive system and provides supplementary engine power.

The revolving extendor in the most recessed gear section of the rear axle has been enlarged. Also there is a pump and oil pressure/hydraulic motor unit that controls acceleration from the input side and deceleration from the output side. Oil under the highest oil pressure generated there [20.6 to 34.3 MPa (megapascals) = 210 to 350 kg/square cm] is temporarily stored in the accumulator. Conversely, when high pressure oil is released, the motor can turn. Through manipulation of the A, B and C pedals, the driver can control a number of operations—beginning with various parameters, such as vehicle speed, gear positions, oil pressure and so on, plus the clutch system ON/OFF function and operation of the oil level adjustment valve.

All these functions have been automated, so that in principle all the functions of this system will not have to be manually performed by the driver while he is operating the vehicle. According to the manufacturer's catalog, because the system regenerates heat energy that was previously lost, "approximately 20 percent energy savings efficiency" is to be expected. In other words, fuel consumption can be reduced by 20 percent. At present, there is only one MBECS vehicle in Tokyo's city bus fleet, operating out of the Minami Senju bus depot. When this report was researched (late November 1994), it had already covered 23,000 kilometers on the job. Called the "Green River," it operates on the route running between the Nippori and Kinshicho train stations, which is one of the big money earners for this particular bus yard.

I talked with a driver who may be considered a superveteran on the route with over 23 years experience. Roughly 50 percent of his time on the job is spent on this particular bus. These are the main points that he made.

(1) He felt it lacked power when accelerating. (2) It also did not accelerate smoothly (he described a sensation of being dragged back). (3) He felt nervous when applying the brakes (wary of letting the passengers think that he lacked driving skill.) In short, he felt that overall the

MBECS bus is hard to drive. As I noted earlier, this particular driver who most often drives the bus is an elite veteran with a fine work record. In fact, he is due to receive an award for meritorious service from the governor of Tokyo. Yet I could see for myself that he was rather nervous when applying the brakes.

How then did it feel to be a passenger on the MBECS bus? First of all, when it came to pressure, I observed the driver as he stopped the bus at each bus stop, which was about 200 to 300 meters apart, and then pulled it away from the curb. When he slowed down from a speed of around 35 to 40 km/hour, the special indicator on his dashboard instrument panel showed that on each occasion accumulated oil pressure was over 80 percent. I could see that a problem a driver would feel in operating the vehicle is that when the brake pedal or gears were engaged, the MBECS bus seemed to decelerate considerably faster than would a conventional bus. The degree to which passengers are thrust forwards and backwards also is greater.

Furthermore, since the passengers lurched forward because of the rather abrupt deceleration when the bus was coming to a stop, even though this super-veteran driver did all he could to minimize the lurching effect by applying the brakes as gently as possible when coming to a stop, I could sense that in actuality it was impossible to carry out such delicate manipulation of the controls.

That is especially true because in the downtown part of Tokyo through which the bus runs many of the foot portions of bridges show dips and are on an incline because of previous land subsidence. When the bus quickly has to decelerate on a downward slope, control of the system becomes quite a task for the driver.

Moreover, conversely, on upward slanting portions of bridges, where the engine of conventional buses would be turning over smoothly, even when the MBECS bus had accelerated to 40 to 45 km/h, it seemed to have a lethargic feel to it, as if it were being dragged backward. I could see why the driver would feel tense when driving the vehicle.

I would estimate the weight of the system to be in the 650-kilogram range were it the size of a conventional bus in all respects, but by reducing the seating capacity by three the gross additional weight of the system has been limited to only about 555 kilograms.

As for real fuel consumption, the Minami Senju depot uses a total volume control system for the 86 buses that run on its various lines. During seasons when air conditioning is not used, the average bus gets 2.31 to 2.40 km/liter. The MBECS appears to get nearly identical fuel mileage. So, contrary to expectations, at least up until now there has been no noticeable improvement in fuel mileage.

The question therefore becomes why the fuel consumption savings efficiency touted by the manufacturer has not been achieved. There were some hints in the driver's observations and critique. The two principal reasons are: (1) inadequacies in the oil pressure hydraulic system capacity, and (2) the lack of fine tuning in the control system.

At least for the line on which the bus is now operating, based on the information I garnered from the indicators on the control panel, I have concluded that the system capacity is insufficient to guarantee adequate quantities of recyclable energy. For that reason, when the bus is accelerating the regenerated energy is not up to the level of demand. So I therefore believe that the regeneration efficiency of the MBECS system is inadequate.

On top of that, after observing the obvious difficulties and frustration the driver was experiencing in operating the system, I would have to say that the electronics control technology Mitsubishi Motors exhibited in [INVECS] has not yet been fully exploited. Perhaps the company did not go to the trouble to incorporate it to a full degree in a limited production product such as this, but I feel confident that with time these problems can be overcome.

Nevertheless, even though the MBECS is severely handicapped by its large vehicle weight, I feel confident that the system still holds great promise when it comes to keeping the fuel consumption situation from becoming worse.

The Idle Stop Bus

This system is quite simple to explain. When the bus comes to a stop for a stoplight or whatever, the engine automatically stops under the following conditions: (1) vehicle speed reaches zero, (2) the vehicle is in neutral gear, (3) the driver's foot is removed from the clutch pedal, and (4) the engine is running at less than 800 rpm.

The engine will start automatically when: (1) the engine is at 0 rpm, (2) the vehicle is in neutral gear, and (3) the driver has his foot on the clutch.

In order to ensure safety and protect the engine and other parts, the system has incorporated several features. For one thing, the belief that idling is a waste of fuel has been adopted, which brings back memories of the prevailing psychology way back when Japan was hit by the oil shock. But now an "automatic start/stop" electronic control feature is available, so that in principle the driver will not have to be responsible for saving fuel.

While researching this article in late November, 1994, I also visited the Otsuka Bus Depot in Tokyo, a facility that has a total of 84 buses running on the routes it is responsible for. Four of these buses have the Idle/Stop feature. As of the end of October, 1994, they had accumulated a total of 28,000 kilometers on the road. When it comes to fuel consumption, these vehicles like all the conventional buses in the yard operate under the total volume control system.

During the seasons when air conditioners are not in use, the conventional vehicles average around 2.4 km/liter and the idle/stop vehicles seem to be chalking up a figure roughly the same or only slightly better.

According to the manufacturerUs catalog, the system is designed to improve fuel efficiency by about 10 percent. But it would not appear that the system is living up to expectations.

At the same time, it seems apparent that this system can only improve with time. There seems no way that it can get worse. And there is no doubt that its method of operation is quite easy to comprehend. On the day that I rode an Idle/Stop bus for around two kilometers, I counted the bus engine coming to a stop ten times due to traffic conditions.

However, the bus driver confided, "At night when there are few passengers and the engine stops, there is an eerie, disconcerting silence inside the bus."

Starter units are frequently a cause for concern, but apparently the one in this system has not caused any special problems to date. If there is any particular problem, it is the fact that when the air conditioning system is in use, a minute after the engine comes to a stop the electrical source for the circulation fan shuts off. The bus authorities are concerned that if the fan remains off for considerable time on hot days, it may cause discomfort for the passengers.

General Evaluation of the Three Systems

Next, I would like to sum up what we have learned through on-site evaluation of three low-emission buses, including the Hino HIMR discussed in the March issue. The avowed aims of all three systems is "to recycle energy needlessly lost, to stop inefficient movements, and to design ways to enhance energy consumption savings efficiency."

However, according to our research:

—The fuel efficiency consumption efficiency increases of 10 percent to 30 percent claimed by the manufacturers in their catalogs have not in fact been realized.

—If true energy consumption savings efficiency cannot be clearly achieved, we will not be able to effectively reduce carbon dioxide emissions, and therefore cannot expect to be able to control global atmospheric warming. Nevertheless, methods that indicate that fuel consumption is worsening are certain to raise doubts in this regard.

—When it comes to efficiency in controlling black exhaust smoke, no matter what method is being used visual observation can be employed as an accurate guide for confirming efficiency and evaluating effectiveness.

—Generally speaking, buses that achieve pollution emission levels that are less than 60 percent of the cut-off level of the latest emission gas control levels can be considered to be "low-emission buses." Even though buses that are considered to qualify as such have been introduced into certain districts of Tokyo, the manufacturer data for certain vehicle categories is susceptible to doubt based on our observation of the vehicles in actual operation.

Diesel Buses Using LPG as a Supplementary Fuel

We also should consider the buses in operation in Tokyo, with engines specially designed by the local government that use LPG to control black emission smoke when the vehicles are accelerating. When fuel is inducted, the LPG is introduced into a mixture with the gas oil diesel fuel.

I visited the Shinagawa Bus Depot, where one such vehicle is currently in operation. It was introduced there in July 1988, and as of the end of October 1994 had accumulated a record of 268,600 kilometers. The bus burns an average of 35.71 liters of gas oil and 4.59 liters of LPG per 100 kilometers. Because this is not an energy regeneration system, originally there were no high hopes for improvement of fuel consumption efficiency. So monitoring has concentrated solely on possible gains in the reduction of the emission of black exhaust smoke.

Such black smoke reduction is in the order of 26 percent to 43 percent when buses are fully loaded, according to actual experimental data. Direct observation confirms that emissions appear to be less than for conventional vehicles.

Conclusions

In this series we sought to conduct an on-the-scene survey of low-emission buses. This involved direct investigation of innovative buses being operated by the Tokyo Metropolitan Transportation Bureau. Although we greatly appreciate the efforts of those involved to clear up Tokyo's skies by even a little bit and reduce by any amount the pollutants found in exhaust gas that are so harmful to our health, we have concluded that the data provided by the manufacturers of these vehicles and data derived from their actual operation differ rather significantly. We hope that those involved with low-pollutant buses, especially the manufacturers, will take notice of these findings.

Aum, Sarin Link Reported Before Subway Attack

952B0151A Tokyo SHUKAN ASAHI in Japanese 20 Jan 95 pp 22-26

[Article by SHUKAN ASAHI investigation and reporting team]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last year ended without a solution to the "Matsumoto sarin incident" which resulted in seven dead victims. Two weeks after the Matsumoto incident, it was revealed that another "sarin incident" had occurred in a village at the foot of Mount Fuji in Yamanashi Prefecture. The buildings near the site where the public health center and police station personnel had attempted to conduct on-the-spot checks were facilities of the Aum Shinrikyo [Aum Supreme Truth Sect].

Two Weeks After Seven Casualties in Matsumoto

Fujigamine in Kamikuishiki, Yatsushiro County, Yamanashi Prefecture, is, as its name implies, a dairy-farming district with Mount Fuji nearby. On 9 July 1994 at 0100, it was swept by a strong and strange odor.

At the home of company employee A (50), his daughter (21) who was still up began to complain of a "rotten smell." His wife (41) and his daughter opened the front door. At that moment a terrible odor surrounded them. It was a sweetish smell that was different from a decomposing stench and unlke anything they had encountered before. They felt headaches and nausea. The daughter shouted: "We will be killed if we stay here!"

The three family members covered their mouths with towels and ran into the house of co-op employee B (66) about a hundred meters away. After about 30 minutes, the stench came up to B's house also, which was on high ground. Where did the odor come from?

B recalled that, three days before, about 10 dogwood, gingko, and Japanese beech trees were found withered near the Aum sect's "No. 7 facility" which was close by. When he questioned a sect member who was with him, he was told: "I do not know why, but many members have been inactive because of ill health since about April."

There must be a connection between the withered trees and the offensive smell. A and B hurried to the "No. 7 facility." It was a summer night with a clear sky and no mist whatsoever.

Enroute they passed in front of the "No. 11 facility" which is another sect facility. Two white 10-passenger station wagons were parked near the entrance. One soon sped away. In the rear seats of the other wagon sat seven or eight women who appeared to be in their early 20's.

Seeing a young man in the driver's seat through the car window, B felt a shudder run through his body. The man wore a white dustproof mask which covered his mouth, nose and ears. B opened the door on the passenger seat side and asked: "What happened? Is everything all right?" However, the masked man kept silent and drove away.

When the two reached the "No. 7 facility" about 50 meters from there, there were about 10 young men seated in front of a guard shed in front of the building entrance. They were all silent and looked bewildered. Around them was the same rotten smell.

To make sure, B checked the vicinity including the waste disposal building nearby, but there was no odor elsewhere. A's family returned home about 0330, opened the windows, and waited for the stench to go away.

Dawn came. At a little past 1000, the headman of the village public health and environment division came with a policeman from the guard division of the Fuji-Yoshida police station and Furuta—an employee of the Yoshida public health center.

Behind the "No. 7 facility" was a polyethelene tank labeled "sulfuric acid" and left out in the open. A number of empty bags labeled "caustic soda" were strewn around in back of the "No. 11 facility."

However, when the policeman came near to conduct an on-the-spot investigation of the "No. 7 facility," the guard blocked his way, demanding: "Why are you trespassing on our property?" As they were wrangling, four or five young men of the facility gathered and contended: "It has nothing to do with us. We are the victims."

On the evening of 15 July, a week later, a foul smell again penetrated the air. B and more than 10 village residents visited the "No. 7 facility" with the policeman. They could not enter the building, but they saw on the wall inside the guardroom a posted Aum sect newspaper with a report on the Matsumoto sarin incident. When the residents attempted to photograph the wall, the newspaper was ripped off the wall.

Later when B was walking near the "No. 7 facility," he was told by the guard: "If you walk around here, sarin will accumulate and you will also be affected." Last December he heared from a believer who had escaped from the Aum sect facility that "when one member was taking a shower, his skin peeled off immediately due to the effect of a poison-gas attack." B says: "I felt afraid because it reminded me of the Matsumoto sarin incident."

The Aum cult group came to Kamikuishiki—a village of a population of only 1,800—in the summer of 1989. It chose the Fujigamine district as its "holy land."

The sect first bought 6,900 square meters of land and began contruction of an office building. However, complaints poured in from the residents from the outset that "filthy water flowed out from the facility and the pasture ground has turned brown." In June 1990, the residents gathered to form a "counter-Aum sect measures committee." Meanwhile, the sect submitted transfer applications for its followers to the village office designating the construction site as the transfer site, but the village authorities rejected the applications. Administrative litigation was sometimes filed.

According to the councillor in charge at the village office, the land purchased by the sect so far "totals nearly four hectares (40,000 square meters)." In June last year, the village assembly adopted a resolution banning transfers by the sect followers.

Tensions thus continued to build up between the villagers and the sect. On the 12th, three days after the furor over the foul smell, the sect abruptly changed its attitude and notified the village that it would transfer 25 sect members with resident cards out of the village.

Although the odor incident itself was not widely reported at the time, in September 1994, the investigation hdqtrs of the Nagano Prefectural Police—which was investigating the Matsumoto sarin incident—inspected the soil at the site in cooperation with the National Policy Agency's science police research lab and detected the same organic sulfuric compound as the compound found in the Matsumoto sarin incident.

Inference to "Sarin" Two Months Prior to Kamikuishiki Incident

Why did the investigating authorities indicate interest in the foul smell incident? Although they have not admitted it officially, there is a document in which they are reported to be extremely interested.

It is the 37th edition of the Aum sect's monthly periodical SUPREME TRUTH INFORMATION. The magazine carried a sermon delivered by the sect leader, Shoko Asahara, "at the Tokyo general headquarters training hall in Minami Aoyama on 27 April 1994."

It says: "With the poison gas attacks that have continued since 1988, we are sprayed by helicopters and other aircraft wherever we go. (passage omitted) The use of poison gases such as sarin were clearly indicated. Perhaps the nuclear bomb will come next."

Two months before the Matsumoto sarin incident, Asahara had used the technical term "sarin"—which is unfamiiiar to the general public—to complain that the sect is under attack.

Regarding the recent "sarin residue" report, the Aum sect contended at a press conference that "linking the Matsumoto incident to the Kamikuishiki incident by inference should be avoided." However, an investigating official reveals that "the organic sulfur compound detected in Kamikuishiki was also found concerning the Matsumoto incident in the room where the deaths occurred."

There are reportedly more than a hundred ways to produce sarin. For example, according to a general method described in technical books, a certain organic sulfur compound is synthesized by a reaction in the final stage between a specific alcoholic substance. If the reaction time is too long or an excessive amount of alcohol is used, sarin that includes an impure substance is produced. The impurity produced here is the "organic sulfur compound" in question.

This "compound" can be removed through distillation, but it requires a large-scale distillation apparatus similar to those used by professional research institutions such as the military and the universities.

Professor Kenji Mori of Tokyo University's agriculture department, an expert on the production of sarin, says: "This 'compound' does not exist in natural form and, because it becomes the base material for sarin, no nation has approved its sale on the open market. Also, there is no possibility of the 'compound' being formed naturally by using insecticides sold on the market as the base material."

Sarin itself is said to be nontoxic toward plant life and also colorless and odorless. Although it contradicts the phenomena in both the Matsumoto and Kamikuishiki cases, Professor Mori surmises as follows. "The browning of the trees is perhaps the effect of hydrogen fluoride. There are cases of hydrogen fluoride being produced when sarin is synthesized or hydrolysized, and trees will turn brown then. It is conceivable that a rotten odor was created because it was an extremely impure form of sarin."

Impure Sarin Resulted From Dumping?

Although people died in the Matsumoto incident, symptoms such as nausea occurred but not one was hospitalized in the Kamikuishiki incident. Regarding this point, Professor Mori provides the following conjecture. "Regarding the Kamikuishiki case, I believe that it is also possible, for example, that the chemical substance in the raw material stage was thrown away, and it coincidentally caused a reaction which resulted in an extremely impure form of sarin."

On 13 January, this investigating team scoured the vicinity where the foul odor emanated and looked into the "No. 7 compound."

Large dump trucks drove incessantly in and out. A young man with an electrode wrapped around his head shouted: "Please stop taking pictures of the building and the people!" On a nearby road stood a signboard on which was written: "No U-turn—By the Aum Construction Ministry." One villager says: "I have seen an organizational chart of the Aum sect. It included an education ministry and a secretariat. A defense agency will apparently be created soon. The sect is like a state."

The Aum Supreme Truth Sect predicts "an Armageddon in 1997," and it preaches that everyone should assemble under Asahara's leadership.

On 23 April last year, three years before the Armageddon, Leader Asahara of the Aum sect wrote in his "letter to the believers" as follows. "As my disciples, I want each of you to live out your remaining lives with great care. Of course, I am contemplating sermon meetings in our training hall but, alas, our training hall is being subjected to poison gas attacks by the U.S. military, the Self Defense Force and the Public Safety Police."

"Sprayed Poison Gas by Military Helicopters"

Regarding the recent series of incidents, the Aum Supreme Truth Sect contends that "we are the victims."

It says that, on 4 Jan, 1) A member of the counter-Aum measures committee sprayed poison gases such as sarin on Aum facilities from a nearby building from March to December last year. 2) Unknown persons sprayed poison gases for days on Aum facilities from the sky with helicopters, Cessnas, and military aircraft.

The sect filed a litigation suit at the Kofu district prosecutor's office regarding the attempts to murder village residents and held a press conference at its Tokyo general headquarters training hall in Minami Aoyama.

[Yoshinobu Aoyama, lawyer, 40 years old] I learned from YOMIURI SHIMBUN that sarin residue has been officially detected. Hoping that such incidents will not recur, I have taken legal procedures.

[Ikuo Hayashi, doctor, 47] Detection of poison gas using Russian-made detector tubes is divided into the three categories of harmful, semi-harmful, and harmless. At a sect concert held last year, a gas was sprayed into the hall and a four-year-old child died suddenly. This was despite the superpower and superhealth which have been the trademarks of the Aum sect.

[Kii Miyauchi, follower, 19] Ever since I became a follower in March 1993, I have felt listless with a regular pulse of over 100 and continuous cold-like symptoms. Recently, everywhere we go, military helicopters spray poisonous gases.

[Hayashi] To protect ourselves, we have spent several billion yen for the development of air purifying devices to remove poisonous gases. There are three types: a fixed outdoor-type that allows air to filter through a sulfuric acid and caustic soda solvent, a fixed indoor-type that uses an ozone-forming device and a fixed indoor-type that uses seven kinds of activated charcoal which hypothesizes a chemical germ attack. However, the symptoms cannot be confirmed without using a special antidote.

[Reporter] Are the villagers in the vicinity unaffected by the spraying?

[Hayashi] They very cleverly take into consideration the wind direction and timing. The helicopters remain stationary by hovering in the upper sky.

[Reporter] Do you have photographic proof showing visible spraying?

[Aoyama] Because the spraying is done in extremely fine form, there are no pictures that can confirm it.

[Reporter] Was the poisonous gas identified as sarin?

[Hayashi] The symptoms began to appear since late 1992, but detection was not possible with detector tubes sold in Japan. It was in January 1994 that detection became possible with detector tubes ordered from Russia which has special ties with the Aum sect.

[Reporter] Is there a detector that can specify the existence of sarin?

[Hayashi] I have heard that there is a special large detector than can specify it.

[Reporter] Did the furor over the foul odor on 9 July involve an attack on the Aum sect?

[Aoyama] In view of the emotional dislike and bias among some villagers, I think it was probably a distortion by the villagers' side.

[Reporter] At the time, there was testimony that the Aum sect followers fled for shelter wearing gas masks.

[Aoyama] I have not heard about it.

[Reporter] By spraying from military helicopters, do you mean repression by state authorities?

[Aoyama] Yes. In the case of the police also, perhaps they are making moves separately from the investigating team at the frontline.

[Reporter] Was the fact confirmed that the trees near the No. 7 facility turned brown around 9 July?

[Aoyama] I do not know the details.

[Reporter] What is the function of the No. 7 facility?

[Aoyama] I cannot divulge the religious content. We are clearly the victims. I will discuss anything that can help to clarify the truth.

[Reporter] Was there any casualty from poisonous gas at the Matsumoto branch?

[Hayashi] When we conducted a questionnaire among the followers in May last year, there was none. No one has been hospitalized so far.

Russian Expert Discusses Sarin Incident

OW2104012095 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 18 Apr 95 Morning Edition p 9

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with a NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN reporter, Leo Fedorov, president of the Chemical Safety League (environmental organization) of Russia, said: "The possibility cannot be ruled out that the manufacturing technology for sarin used in the nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subway flowed out of Russia." The following is the gist of the interview.

The possibility is slim that the sarin used in the nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subway was shipped out of Russia. Perhaps, the manufacturing equipment was not built in Russia. It is natural to believe that the chemical materials necessary to manufacture the sarin were procured, and the sarin manufactured, in Japan. Yet the possibility cannot be ruled out that sarin manufacturing technology flowed out of Russia—40,000 tons of such chemical weapons as sarin and saman [as published] are presently stored in Russia; 32,000 tons of the same chemical weapons are also stored in the United States. Russia has not manufactured any new chemical weapons since 1987. Of the 40,000 tons, 12,000 tons is sarin and only one factory in Volgograd has manufactured it. The sarin is stored packed in shells on five military bases. The number of shells is estimated at millions.

Even a small quantity of sarin inflicts heavy causalities and it is impossible to preserve it if it is not contained. It is extremely difficult to steal sarin because of its high toxicity. The military bases are located in remote villages and each shell weighs 30-40 kg. Thousands of workers left the factory after it suspended the production of sarin in 1987. About 100 workers have sarin manufacturing know-how. It could be possible to obtain the manufacturing technology from researchers with the Russian Academy of Sciences; they are badly off. The military establishment only takes delivery of sarin, it does not engage in manufacturing.

At issue is that, both in Japan and Russia, a domestic system has yet to be created for the control of dangerous chemical materials, and no multilateral coordination and control system exists for that purpose. All nations need to ratify the Chemical Weapons Ban Treaty and strengthen the global control of nuclear materials.

The list of nuclear materials to be controlled has already been compiled by international conferences. All nations could create a cooperative system if they ratified the treaty and it was put into effect. At present, chemical weapons are used as an instrument by the United States and Russia to play political games.

SDF Members Identified as Sect Followers

OW2204133095 Tokyo KYODO in English 1316 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 22 KYODO—Fifty-eight present and former members of Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) have been identified as followers of the doomsday cult Aum Shinrikyo, KYODO NEWS SERVICE learned Saturday [22 April].

A list of Aum followers contained the 58, including members of the ground, sea and air SDF, according to sources familiar with the Aum case.

Some of the SDF members were asked by Aum about their military expertise in the course of training as Aum believers, the sources said, adding there were SDF members who belonged to the Japanese military's drug and chemical sections.

Several SDF members were previously paratroopers before joining Aum, the target of massive police raids in connection with schemes to manufacture the deadly nerve gas sarin and kidnap people.

The sources said Japanese authorities suspect that certain present or former SDF personnel have been involved in production of the nerve gas sarin and kidnappings or other clandestine operations for the cult.

Sarin was used in the March 20 attack on the Tokyo subway system, which left 12 people dead and injured more than 5,000 others.

The authorities are also suspicious about a leakage of information about the alerting of the SDF ahead of police raids on Aum facilities, the sources said.

Komura on Effects of Supplementary Budget

OW2504021395 Tokyo KYODO in English 0205 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Japan's economic planning chief Masahiko Komura said Tuesday [25 April] he expects the implementation of the recent economic package to produce positive effects on the foreign exchange market.

"If the supplementary budget actually materializes, it will gradually affect the economy and the foreign exchange market in a positive way," said the director general of the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) speaking to reporters after the regular cabinet session.

The government will compile a supplementary budget for fiscal 1995 in mid-May to finance yen-curbing measures envisioned in the package.

He warned against excessive reaction to short-term currency movements, saying, "One must not alternately get disappointed and glad."

The U.S. dollar dropped below 80 yen in Tokyo for the first time on Wednesday last week but has since recovered to the 83 yen range.

Parties Agree on Preferential Tax for Imports

OW2504105095 Tokyo KYODO in English 1033 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—The government and ruling coalition parties agreed Tuesday on details of preferential tax treatment for import promotion incorporated in an emergency package of economic measures, officials said.

The officials said the government will submit to the Diet a bill to revise the provisional taxation law when it sends a fiscal 1995 supplemental budget to the Diet on May 15.

Under the revised law, manufacturers will be offered a maximum 10 percent tax deduction for the amount of increased imports, up from the present 5.0 percent, the officials said.

They said wholesalers and retailers will be allowed to set aside up to 40 percent of the amount of increased imports for their loss reserves, up from the present 20 percent.

The present law eases the corporate tax burden for enterprises whose annual imports exceed their previous records by more than 2.0 percent.

The officials said the preferential import promotion tax will help increase Japan's annual imports by 760 billion yen, up from the present 600 billion yen.

The fall in the government's corporate tax revenues is estimated at 14 billion yen, they said.

They said the tax preference will not apply to beef and oranges on which import duties are levied and some other items, such as petroleum and gold.

Deficit-ridden corporations which do not pay corporate taxes will be denied the tax benefits, the officials said.

MITI Chooses Toyobo To Receive Tax Breaks

OW2404132195 Tokyo KYODO in English 1154 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—Import-pounded textile firm Toyobo Co. became the first company Monday [24 April] to be tapped for tax breaks under a new law to fight the job-cutting effects of the high yen.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said it designated the spinning company for the first application of a business reform law that went into effect on April 1.

Toyobo, the first designee among companies in 165 targeted sectors, will get a 10 percent tax deduction on development testing costs that exceed its peak since the 1993 business year and a special depreciation allowance for investment in plant and equipment, MITI said.

The company said it will use the tax breaks to develop processed products that resist germs and odors and retain their shape.

Local Election Results Affect Coalition Parties

OW2404145395 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 16 Apr 95 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Moves to strengthen the alliance between the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] and Sakigake [Harbinger] to establish a third force in the political world have been deadlocked. The reason is that Sakigake has become increasingly wary that "forming an alliance in an irresponsible manner may invite public criticism" with the increasing number of voters with no party affiliation, while the SDPJ is eager about purely internal plans to form a new party. The fate of the two-party alliance may have a great influence on the new party planned by the SDPJ.

Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama has begun to voice his dissatisfaction with consultation deadlock.

At a meeting of more than 10 younger lawmakers from the two parties held in Tokyo on the evening of 13 April, the Sakigake representatives said clearly: "We do not favor isolationism, but we have no plan to join the SDPJ's new party preparatory committee right now."

After a series of talks started last autumn between SDPJ Secretary General Wataru Kubo and Sakigake leader, Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura, the two parties reached agreement on promoting policy and electoral campaign cooperation. In addition, Prime Minister Murayama expressed his positive support for the idea of establishing a unified parliamentary group of the two parties at the beginning of January.

In the circumstances, it was thought moves toward alliance would be accelerated. However, the talks were "suspended" because of the consequences of measures to deal with the great Hanshin earthquake. Kubo and Takemura finally held their first round of policy negotiations in late March, but there has not been any further progress since then.

In their plan to strengthen the alliance, the two parties wanted to check moves by the New Democratic League, chaired by Sadao Yamahana, to form a new party, because it was strengthening ties with Shinshinto [New Frontier Party]. However, the new party plan of Yamahana's group lost momentum when there was a policy shift among its labor union supporters. Observers are increasingly convinced that "an SDPJ split has been avoided." Against that, though, the result has been a dwindling of energy in further promoting the SDPJ-Sakigake alliance.

Sakigake has, all along, been concerned about the SDPJ's "dependence on labor unions", and has been wary of coming under the influence of labor unions" (according to a senior Sakigake official). Furthermore, since the voter distrust of the established political parties was positively demonstrated in the results of the first half of the recent simultaneous local elections, many observers are saying any "indiscreet alliance of political parties may provoke public criticism" (according to a senior Sakigake member).

Moreover, Takemura, who once felt positively about strengthening the alliance, recently indicated a more negative view toward such a parliamentary group.

If Sakigake refuses to join the new party the SDPJ wants to form, the SDPJ will face criticism that "the new party is only the old party with a repainted sign." Although the SDPJ needs to strengthen the alliance with Sakigake, it seems that in the circumstances, the party cannot expect this to happen."

SDPJ 'Rebel' Group Abandons New Party Plan

OW2504015895 Tokyo KYODO in English 0152 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—The head of a rebel group in the Social Democratic Party (SDP) [of Japan—SDPJ], a pillar of Japan's three-party ruling coalition, has abandoned a plan to set up a new party based on the dissident group, according to the group's members.

They said that at a meeting in Tokyo on Monday [24 April], former SDP Chairman Sadao Yamahana revealed his decision to the three initiators of the new party's 30-member preparatory panel, including lower house member Banri Kaieda of the New Democratic Club.

But Yamahana did not disclose whether he will quit the SDP, the rebel members said.

Twenty-four SDP rebel members headed by Yamahana set up the preparatory panel for the new party Jan. 16 together with six non-SDP legislators, but the great Hanshin earthquake in western Japan on Jan. 17 forced the rebel group to postpone their activities to help deal with the disaster.

The group planned to form a new party to rival Japan's two biggest conservative parties—the SDP's coalition ally, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), and the new grand opposition party Shinshinto (New Frontier Party).

The group aimed to rally "democrats and liberals" from inside and outside the SDP to cope with ongoing realignment in Japanese politics amid fears that the SDP will ultimately be absorbed by the powerful LDP.

However, earlier this month, the Japan Postal Workers Union (Zentei), previously a major supporter of the Yamahana group, decided not to assist the SDP dissidents.

Meanwhile, SDP leaders plan to hold an extraordinary party convention in late May to discuss a plan to dissolve the party and form a new one.

On April 27, the SDP's Central Executive Committee, the party's decision-making body, is scheduled to decide on the agenda of the convention.

Possibility of Murayama Resignation Viewed

OW2504103495 Tokyo KYODO in English 1024 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama may be forced to resign if his Social Democratic Party (SDP) [Social Democratic Party of Japan - SDPJ] sees a major defeat in the House of Councillors election in July, a high-ranking SDP official said Tuesday.

"We will be required to make a decision on whether to maintain the premiership in the ruling coalition if the SDP suffers a worse-than-expected defeat," SDP Secretary General Wataru Kubo said in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

Kubo flatly denied the possibility of Murayama stepping down or a cabinet reshuffle before the upper house poll. Kubo also referred to the possibility that the framework of the tripartite coalition will be altered depending on the election results.

"It's difficult to forecast whether the results of the upper house election alone will affect the framework of the coalition. But I guess it may be changed a bit if the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) alone secures a majority," Kubo said.

Kubo said the SDP will convene an emergency meeting May 27 with the goal of transforming into a party with a better chance of surviving the summer election.

Concerning a no-war resolution proposed in the Diet, Kubo warned that the SDP could leave the coalition if the LDP does not abide by a coalition agreement to adopt it.

"We must deal with the issue in a decisive manner that would lead to a review of the coalition if the Diet resolution is denied or it becomes different from the one agreed upon among the three parties," Kubo said.

The SDP, the LDP and New Party Sakigake agreed to back the resolution but remain at odds over its wording. The SDP has said the resolution should include an apology to Asians for Japan's wartime atrocities, but a group of conservative LDP members has opposed it.

Kubo took a cautious view about supporting proposed Japanese participation in UN Peacekeeping operations in the Israeli-held Golan Heights.

"We must be cautious about it because it is linked to the government's policy on how to tackle the issue of (UN) peacekeeping forces in the future," Kubo said.

The United Nations wants Japanese to replace 50 Canadians involved in transport duties as part of UN peacekeeping forces in the Golan Heights.

"Even if they are called transport duties, they are peacekeeping forces, so the dispatch of Japanese Self-Defense Force personnel for peacekeeping forces will be military cooperation," Kubo said.

Japan has put a freeze on participation in UN peacekeeping forces as it could involve fighting, but the LDP is looking to see Japanese participation in UN Operations in the Golan Heights to pave the way for lifting the freeze on peacekeeping forces.

North Korea

DPRK Diplomat on Geneva Talks Letter to U.S.

OW2504012895 Tokyo KYODO in English 0105 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, April 24 KYODO—North Korea sent a letter to the United States on Monday [24 April] concerning a high-level meeting in Geneva proposed by Washington over stalled nuclear talks, a North Korean diplomatic source said.

But the source in New York speaking to KYODO NEWS SERVICE by telephone declined to comment on the letter sent to chief U.S. Negotiator Ambassador-at-Large Robert Gallucci.

The proposed talks between Gallucci and North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-chu were made immediately after expert-level talks in Berlin ruptured last week.

Washington and Pyongyang are at odds over the type of light-water reactors to be supplied to North Korea under a framework nuclear agreement reached by the two countries last October.

Meanwhile, a North Korean official said earlier Monday he has "personally" expected some "positive" response under a certain condition to the U.S. proposals.

As for the condition, the New York official said he believes the U.S. "has to modify its position so that DPRK (North Korea) will be able to send the delegation to Geneva."

If not, the official said, there is "no reason to go there to waste time," suggesting that Pyongyang's response to the upgraded talks expected in early May remains fluid unless Washington makes a major concession.

North Korea has refused to accept South Korean reactors as replacements for Pyongyang's current nuclear program, which the U.S. suspects is being used secretly to develop nuclear arms.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher voiced hopes Monday for a North Korean acceptance, reiterating, "I do not think that problem is insoluble."

"We don't know exactly what the problem is from the standpoint of North Koreans. If it's (an) issue of language, I'm sure we can find some way to resolve it," Christopher told reporters during a photo session for his meeting with Polish Foreign Minister Wladyslaw Bartoszevski [name and position as received].

Also describing the dispute as "soluble" during a press briefing Friday, Gallucci pointed to a U.S. concession of allowing various other nations to join as subcontractors and writing this into a contract with language agreeable for Pyongyang.

"There should be a way to capture... [ellipses as received] in language, the role that (the) Republic of Korea (South Korea) and its entities would play," he said.

But Gallucci repeated that South Korea must play "a central role in design, manufacture, construction and financing of the project" as Seoul is the only nation committed to shoulder most of the cost.

NSP Blamed for 'Alienating' Koreans in PRC

SK2204135295 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0653 GMT 22 Apr 95

[Dialogue between station reporters Chong Song-kang and Yi In-chun: "The Puppet Agency for National Security Planning That Is Keen on Maneuvering Anti-Republic Schemes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yi] How are you?

[Chong] Fine. How are you?

[Yi] Fine. The puppet Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] of South Korea is keen on maneuvering anti-Republic schemes these days. Let us discuss this today.

[Chong] Okay. We can say that the puppet traitor Kim Yong- sam's anti-Republic maneuvers have been all the more unscrupulous these days, in connection with the scheme of linking the South Korean Federation of University Student Councils to us and having NSP agents infiltrate the northeastern area of China. In particular, the puppet NSP of South Korea is viciously scheming to create disquiet and alienation in the society of overseas compatriots. This is well indicated by the puppet NSP's insidious maneuvers with Korean compatriots in China. The puppet NSP dispatched its agents to three northeastern provinces of China, including Yanbian District which has a larger population of Korean compatriots than any other area in China, and is openly committing the criminal act of creating alienation, antagonism, and confrontation in the Korean society there.

[Yi] It really is. As you know, it has already been exposed that the South Korean puppet NSP has been maneuvering schemes behind the scenes by using organizations in charge of splitting up, annoying, and breaking up the society of Korean compatriots in China, as well as using NSP agents disguised as diplomats at the South Korean puppet embassy and consulates in China. The schemers at the puppet NSP are keen in splitting and breaking up various civilian organizations of Korean compatriots active in the northeast area into pro-North and pro-South factions. They are meanly maneuvering to win the compatriots in China over their side by giving them money, while establishing NSP organizations disguised as joint-venture companies, private enterprises, cultural exchange centers, and religious organizations in northeast China, under the pretext of developing this area.

[Chong] You are right. In addition, we cannot but take a serious view of the face that they have hired hands and spies threaten and oppress compatriots in China and do not hesitate to even take them prisoners and are using them to split up and alienating the compatriots' society. Because of this criminal maneuver committed by the puppet NSP, in some areas children's fights have developed into those of adults, and compatriots have divided into blocs, such as pro-North and pro-South factions, and have become hostile to and conflicting with one another. The puppet NSP's maneuver has also derived various incidents—such as terrorism, threats, kidnappings, and murders—in the compatriots and even caused bankruptcy and ruin of their businesses.

In addition to the tragedy of the single nation's division by outside forces into two, the traitorous Kim Yong-sam clique's criminal national confrontation maneuver has created another tragedy of letting the overseas compatriots suffer their division into the two factions.

[Yi] That is right. Strategic maneuvers by the Kim Yong-sam ring that is afraid of national unity are intolerable vicious crimes. As you know, all Korean compatriots in the North, the South, and overseas are vigorously carrying out the grand nationwide reunification march, overcoming differences in idea, ideology, doctrine, insistence, and religion. At this moment, the Kim Yong- sam ring is engaged in insidious and antinational maneuvers even with overseas compatriots, running counter to reconciliation and unity of the nation and reunification of the country. We cannot overlook this.

[Chong] Never. In particular, the puppet traitor Kim Yong- sam's vicious attempt to drag neighboring countries into anti- Republic maneuvers is an act of slighting and infringing upon other countries' sovereignty, and we cannot but take a serious view of it. The puppet traitor Kim Yong-sam's maneuver plainly shows that the puppets have no intention of making efforts for national reconciliation or dialogue. We cannot think of North-South dialogue without trust, can we?

[Yi] No, we cannot.

[Chong] Accordingly, we can assert that the puppet traitor Kim Yong-sam has lost qualifications for being engaged in North-South dialogue that requires trust. Schemes and dialogue cannot coexist. When the puppet NSP wedges itself in the work of improving North- South relations, North-South dialogue or improvement in North-South relations cannot be achieved because it only pursues national division and confrontation. The puppet Kim Yong-sam clique should immediately stop the antinational and criminal act of exerting the puppet NSP's evil influence even upon overseas compatriots to split up and alienate them and create obstacles to the reunification movement.

[Yi] It should absolutely do so. Let us conclude here today's discussions.

South Koreans Invited as 'Honorary Guests'

SK2204053295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0507 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 22 (KCNA)—Figures of public organisations of South Korea were invited as honorary guests to the Pyongyang International Sports and Cultural Festival for Peace.

Kim Kwan-chol, general secretary of the Preparatory Committee for the Pyongyang International Sports and Cultural Festival for Peace, sent a letter to Kang Hui-nam, chairman of the South side headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon), on April 21, warmly welcoming the hope of figures of various social strata of South Korea to attend the festival and courteously inviting them as honorary guests.

Official requests for the participation in the Pyongyang festival were made by chairman of the South side headquarters of Pomminnyon Kang Hui-nam and other public figures affiliated with organisations of South Korea including the Council of the Family Movement for Realising Democracy, the National Teachers Union, the Seoul Regional Federation of General Student Councils, the Seoul Alliance for Democracy and National Reunification, the Buddhist Human Rights Commission and the Central Committee of the Buddhist Youth Federation.

The letter said:

We acknowledge that figures of public organisations of South Korea took a bold decision to take part in the Pyongyang festival, proceeding from their patriotism and true hearts to achieve national reconciliation and unity and accomplish the reunification of the country.

If they participate in the Pyongyang festival, they may meet their fellow countrymen in the North, pool aspirations for national unity and national reunification and adorn the festival more significantly.

The letter further said:

If you Mr. Chairman and your party visit Pyongyang, we will ensure your personal safety and provide you with convenience and see to it that you can safely return.

We think that your party may come to Pyongyang via Panmunjom or a third country.

We will warmly greet with compatriotic feelings you Chairman Kang Hui-nam and other figures of public organisations of South Korea who will come to Pyongyang to take part in the Pyongyang festival.

ROK Suppression of Memorial Service Criticized

SK2504102695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 25 Apr 95

["Ruthless Sword-Brandishing"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 25 (KCNA)—The Kim Yong-sam group is now stretching its crooked tentacles of brutal suppression to those who held memorial services for the pro-reunification patriotic martyrs of South Korea, charges NODONG SINMUN in a signed commentary today.

As is reported, South Korean dissident organisations and students held an unveiling ceremony of the monument to the pro-reunification martyrs at Yeongnam University on April 8 and memorial services for the pro-reunification martyrs at Kyongbuk National University on April 9. Upset by this, the puppets launched into a wholesale search for those related to the memorial services and decided to pull down the monument, charging them with violating the "National Security Law".

The analyst says:

This shows that the Kim Yong-sam group, though it is advertising "civilian" politics, is the same traitors as the preceding military dictators, and a group of gangsters ignorant of elementary human ethics.

As for those related to the "case of the rebuilding of the people's revolutionary party" and the "case of Namminjon" praised by the South Korean people as pro- reunification martyrs, they were pro-reunification patriots who took the lead in the struggle for independence, democracy and reunification in South Korea.

For the people to pay homage to them accords with elementary human ethics.

It must not go unnoticed that this coincides with the Kim Yong- sam group's suppression racket intensified with the approach of the "local autonomy elections."

It is clear that the Kim Yong-sam group is trying to fake up "victory" of its hirelings in the upcoming elections at the point of the bayonet, feeling uneasy about its possible defeat in the elections.

Sword-brandishing is not almighty.

The South Korean people will not be resigned to the suppression on the part of the Kim Yong-sam group, but answer it with greater massive resistance.

Human Rights 'Violations' of Kim Yong-sam Group

SK2204105195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1037 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 22 (KCNA)—The Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland (CPRF) released a white paper today on the human rights violations of the Kim Yong-sam group.

The white paper says:

The Kim Yong-sam group is laying grave obstacles to democratic development of South Korean society and national reunification in reliance on the fascist "National Security Law" (NSL) and the "Agency for National Security Planning" (ANSP).

Though the Kim Yong-sam group pays lip service to "democratic politics" of the "civilian government," it maintains the evil laws, on which the preceding military fascist dictatorial regimes lived, and uses them as means of suppression.

The "NSL" is a means for the existence of the Kim Yong-sam group and the lifeline of its fascist rule.

In 1993 the Kim Yong-sam group punished a total of 14,500 labor unionists and workers by invoking the "NSL" for the mere reason that they called for vital rights and democracy.

It carried out a bloody suppression to block the August 15, 1994 pan-national rally and walked away over 2,400 people through an unprecedented roundup campaign after the pan-national rally.

When it was driven to a tight corner by the "condolence issue" over the death of the respected leader President Kim Il-song, the sun of the nation and the lodestar of national reunification, in July 1994, the Kim Yong-sam group kicked up a campaign of suppressing the "followers of the chuche idea" and took to police a total of 48,300 students and other people in eleven days since July 9 in an attempt to survive the crisis.

It now schemes to punish An Ho-sang, leader of Tangun Taejonggyo, and his companion by invoking the "NSL" for the mere reason that they visited Pyongyang to observe the day of ascension of Tangun, the founder of the nation.

This proves that the South Korean authorities are criminals who mock and insult democracy and human rights.

The Kim Yong-sam group has covered South Korea with an intelligence network of the "ANSP" and uses its secret agents to fake up false cases for power security.

The "ANSP" is conducting intelligence activities with despicable methods such as manipulation of secret agents, surveillance, shadowing, bugging and inspection of correspondence.

Each time a political crisis is getting serious in South Korea, the "ANSP" fakes up a "spying case" connected with the North and indiscriminately suppresses the pro-reunification patriotic forces.

Medieval and brutal tortures are used without hesitation at secret rooms of the "ANSP."

The Kim Yong-sam group is crying out for "defence of human rights" in the international arena while maintaining the legal and institutional mechanisms of human rights violations. This is a crafty trick to mislead public opinion at home and abroad.

The white paper expresses the belief that the human rights organisations and progressive people of the world will lift up voices and take measures against the Kim Yong-sam group's criminal violations of democracy and human rights.

Environmental Committee Spokesman on DMZ Control

SK2504050195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0449 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 25 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the Environmental Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued a statement today.

The South Korean puppets recently announced that they would turn the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) along the

Military Demarcation Line (MDL) into a "peace zone symbolic of world peace" and are making a fuss at the United Nations and other international organisations, as if they were doing something for "peace."

The spokesman brands this as a third-rate trick to mislead public opinion at home and abroad and curry favour with someone.

He says:

Out of a desire to remove the tensions and preserve peace and security on the Korean peninsula, we have hoped that the North and South of Korea would jointly develop the DMZ along the Military Demarcation Line and turn it into a peace zone.

This hope has not been realised due to the institutional and physical barriers, a product of the confrontation policy of the United States and the South Korean puppets against peace and reunification.

The DMZ is a zone set to prevent armed conflicts between the hostile parties, so soldiers as well as civilians are not allowed to enter it freely.

Moreover, the area south of the Military Demarcation Line is filled with military setups, pillboxes, anti-tank barriers and mines. Troops and military hardware are being reinforced there now.

The high concrete wall has been built there to bisect Korea. The area is always amidst powder smoke as bullets and shells are fired at the North ceaselessly. Under these conditions, even animals cannot pass this area freely and animals, plants and the ecological system are being destroyed ruthlessly. This fact is known all over the world.

It is the DPRK and the United States that can control the DMZ.

It is a ridiculous act and a mockery of the world for the South Korean authorities who have no control and qualification over the DMZ to talk about its conversion into a "peace zone."

The most important and primary issue at present is to establish a new peace mechanism on the Korean peninsula.

The United States must not encourage the imprudent South Korean authorities but accede to our peace overture which promises a durable peace and security on the Korean peninsula.

If the South Korean authorities truly want to jointly develop the DMZ with the North and turn it into a "peace zone," they must stop confrontation with the North and anti-reunification, anti-national acts, pull down the concrete wall, a barrier of division, and immediately scrap the "National Security Law."

The United Nations and other international organisations must not lend an ear to the reckless, preposterous words of the South Korean authorities obsessed with the conception of confrontation and war psychology of the Cold War era but help toward the persevering and sincere efforts of the Korean people for peace and security on the Korean peninsula and the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

ROK Media on Concern Over North-Japanese Talks

SK2504111095 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports, the South Korean puppets are shrouded in anxiety and fretfulness regarding the adoption of an agreement for the resumption of the talks between the DPRK and Japan.

The papers and broadcasts of South Korea and foreign media have extensively reported that the agreement stipulates that the talks for normalizing DPRK-Japanese diplomatic ties proceed in an independent way without any precondition. They commented that the puppets are concerned that the puppets may again be left out of the soon-to-be resumed DPRK-Japanese talks, like when the DPRK-U.S. framework agreement was adopted.

South Korea's MBC reported as follows: What draws attention in the DPRK-Japanese agreement is the exclusion of preconditions and the emphasis on independence. Since this shows their will not to accept South Korea's interference during the course of the talks, it is a matter of course that the government is concerned over the possibility that Japan may proceed with diplomatic normalization without any consultation with South Korea, like during the adoption of the U.S.-North Korea Geneva nuclear agreement.

It further reported that the South Korean puppets are irritated over the fact that their cooperative system opposing the Republic may collapse if Japan is dragged into our negotiation strategy.

HANGUK ILBO pointed out that the government is concerned that the South Korea-U.S.-Japan tripartite cooperative system may suffer in the wake of the adoption of the agreement on resuming the DPRK-U.S. talks, which was followed by the adoption of the DPRK-U.S. framework agreement.

TONG-A ILBO exposed that the government is attempting to hinder the resumption of the DPRK-Japanese talks out of fear that North Korea may use this as leverage to split up South Korea and Japan in the event the negotiations for normalizing DPRK-Japanese diplomatic relations begin under a condition in which the issue concerning the supply of light-water reactors is not fully resolved.

Foreign Groups Urge Japan To Resume Talks

SK2204103495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1016 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 22 (KCNA)—Organisations and public figures of various countries recently published statements in support of an agreement for the resumption of the talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan.

B. Mohan, chairman of the People's Front of India, in a statement April 11 said that the adoption of the agreement for the resumption of the DPRK-Japan talks between the delegations of the Workers' Party of Korea and the three ruling coalition parties of Japan is another victory of an independent diplomatic policy advanced by Comrade Kim Chong-il, the supreme leader of Korea, who is possessed of matchless grit and will, extraordinary intelligence and outstanding leadership ability.

He urged that the Japanese authorities approach the DPRK-Japan talks from an independent diplomatic stand without any precondition and help toward the cause of the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

An Indian parliamentarian stated in a statement on April 14:

For Japan to normalise relations with the DPRK at present is an urgent task which cannot be delayed both in view of its historical obligation to properly liquidate the past and in view of the improvement of its international image which has been stained.

The Japanese authorities must clearly look at the trend of the times and make a radical change in its Korea policy.

The Anti-imperialist Youth Union of Mali in a statement April 10 demanded that the Japanese authorities not raise any precondition which may obstruct the talks but honestly apologize for their crimes committed against the Korean people for nearly one century.

Moussa Tiepolo Traore, chairman of the Mali-Korea Friendship Association, issued a statement to the press on April 11 stressing that the DPRK-Japan talks must be aimed strictly at liquidating the unhappy past between the two countries, normalising relations between them and stabilising the situation in the Far East.

The Mozambican Committee for Friendship With the Democratic People's Republic of Korea released a statement on April 12 strongly urging the Japanese Government to accede to the DPRK-Japan talks without any precondition according to the agreement, liquidate the crimes committed against the Korean people and history in the past and contribute to the building of a new Asia.

U.S. Attempting To 'Bribe' Countries With Aid

SK2504102995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT 25 Apr 95

["'Dollar Diplomacy' Is Not Almighty"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 25 (KCNA)—The United States is trying to bribe other countries by dint of dollars and keep them under its control to force its unjust demand and policies on them. Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today brands this as an old mode of thinking and a foolish act.

In an article headlined "Failure in 'Dollar Diplomacy'" the author says those countries which receive "aid" from the United States have showed sign of opposing its stand recently on the international arena, drawing the attention of the world.

The paper continues:

The "dollar diplomacy" and the "aid" policy are part of the external strategy of the United States. They are, in essence, aimed at interfering in the internal affairs of those countries which receive its "aid", making them comply with and support its request and policies and furthermore, subjugating their economy and realizing its colonialist domination over them.

The United States is giving "aid" to other countries as if it shows "mercy" and "benevolence", but its "dollar diplomacy" is by no means almighty.

The United States poses as the only superpower. Many countries, however, are not going to abandon their independent stand and interests, shackled to its "aid" or to fawn on it, reading its face.

The "dollar diplomacy" and "aid" policy can never reverse the trend of the time toward international justice and independence.

Kim Chong-il's Intelligence, 'Grit' Praised

SK2204105995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1045 GMT 22 Apr 95

["NODONG SINMUN on General Kim Chong-il's Brilliant Intelligence and Matchless Grit"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 22 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today in a by-lined article headlined "Respected Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, Ever-Victorious Iron-Willed Brilliant Commander Gifted With Intelligence" deals with the extraordinary intelligence and matchless grit of Comrade Kim Chong- il, an unrivalled general.

The article quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"Comrade Kim Chong-il has indomitable will and grit, outstanding intelligence and commandership art as befits the supreme commander of the Revolutionary Armed Forces. This guarantees the constant strengthening and invincibility of our Revolutionary Armed Forces."

The article further says:

Respected Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il is gifted with brilliant intelligence.

The intelligence of the great Comrade Kim Chong-il is a foresighted clairvoyant intelligence and tactical intelligence finding out exquisite methods in conformity with the rapidly changing situation. Always penetrating the weak points of the enemies in confrontation with them, he has defeated them by the strategic and tactical upperhand by means of exquisite methods. Difficult phases decisive of war or peace have been created more than once in Korea. Each time he has driven the enemies into a blind alley by means of excellent methods and converted misfortune into a bliss, adversity into favourable conditions. So, the enemies had to drink a bitter cup of defeat, crying in face of his exquisite intelligence.

The brilliant intelligence of the great Comrade Kim Chong-il is an intelligence involving the army building and military activities as a whole by keeping hold on the main link at all times, and a superb and matchless intelligence leading the revolution and construction as a whole to a victory while pushing ahead with the army building.

He put forward the strategic and tactical policies to strengthen the military and technological might of the People's Army to suit the essential character of the modern war. As a result, the People's Army is proud of being an invincible army which is able to deal with any modern war and a matchless strong army equipped with powerful means of attack and defense.

Respected Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il has distinguished grit which no one can match. Even if a large army of the enemy makes an attack like clouds, he corners it with one order and always repulses it and wins victory. His grit is, indeed, an iron will not wavering to any strong army and any storms, a great decision unhesitatingly and valiantly rushing out at a large army of the enemy if it makes an attack and a brave quality mercilessly attacking the target once it is defined.

Respected Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il with brilliant intelligence and matchless grit is, indeed, a symbol of certain victory. As the People's Army is guided by the great brilliant commander, it has a source of certain victory and a secret driving the enemy into uneasiness, fear and defeat.

Kim Chong-il Health Services Contributions Noted

SK2204102395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1010 GMT 22 Apr 95

["Highly Important Work That Gives Powerful Impetus to Development of Chuche-Oriented Health Service"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 22 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries an article contributed by Minister of Public Health Kim Su-hak on the lapse of 10 years since the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent the historic letter "On the Further Improvement of the Health Service" to the participants in the national conference of health workers in April 1985.

Respected Comrade Kim Chong-il in the work gave all-round answers to theoretical and practical questions arising in making a new turning point in health service and successfully solving the problem in the socialist health care, in keeping with the requirement of the developing revolution when the modelling of the whole society on the chuche idea had come up as a foremost task, says the article.

Pointing out that the significance and vitality of the work rest, above all, with the scientific exposition of the essence, position and role of the health service on the basis of the chuche idea, the article continues:

Socialist health service is actually a revolutionary work to protect and improve the life and health of the people.

In other words, health service under socialism is not merely a technical service to ease sufferings of the people from diseases and rescue their life, but is an important yet proud revolutionary work for freeing all working people from the yoke of diseases and ensuring their independent, creative and happy life.

It is a precious ideological and theoretical exploit of respected Comrade Kim Chong-il that he had made a famous definition on the essence of health service basing himself on the scientific exposition of the chuche-based view on man and of the importance of health of the working people and protection of their life.

The idea and theory of respected Comrade Kim Chong-il on the essence, the mission and role of the health service is the unique one that opened up a new phase in developing the ideology on working-class health care and serves as a guideline clearly indicating how and with what standpoint the party and the state should consider and develop the health service in socialism.

The significance and vitality of the work lies also in that the work has opened a broad avenue for consolidating and developing the socialist health service system by thoroughly implementing the policy on preventive medicine and improving and enhancing the medical service.

They are manifested, too, in that the work is giving a powerful impetus to developing the chuche-oriented medical science and technology, accelerating the training of health workers and intensifying the provision of materials to and guidance over the health care field.

The work of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is an encyclopedic work that has brightly shown the road of developing the socialist health service with new profound idea and crystal-like propositions as well as a splendid blueprint envisaging the high display of the true advantages of the socialist health system of Korea and the building of Korea into a paradise of people in which all enjoy long and healthy life.

In the past ten years since the publication of the work, the quality of the preventive medical service has further improved, section doctor system strengthened and developed with the family doctor system as the main, and modern general hospitals and specialized hospitals were built in numbers, so great success has been made in the health service.

The number of doctors per 10,000 people is 29.7 and the life expectancy is 74.5 years in Korea.

Editorials Laud Kim Chong-il Military Leadership

SK2504063595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0515 GMT 25 Apr 95

["Led by Great Brilliant Commander, the Korean People's Army Is Invincible"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 25 (KCNA)—The Korean People's Army is the Army of General Kim Chong-il, which is advancing in accordance with the strategy of General Kim Chong-il, a great military strategist, and emerging victorious thanks to his grit and commanding art. No force on earth can block the road ahead of the unrivalled ranks.

NODONG SINMUN today declares this in an editorial entitled "Led by Great Brilliant Commander, the Korean People's Army Is Invincible" dedicated to the 63d founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army.

The editorial quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"Comrade Kim Chong-il has an indomitable will, grit, distinguished strategy and commanding art befitting the supreme commander of the Revolutionary Armed Forces. This guarantees the constant strengthening and development of our Revolutionary Armed Forces and their invincibility."

The editorial says the cause of building a chuche-based army, pioneered by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, is being firmly defended and brilliantly carried to completion by Comrade Kim Chong- il, respected supreme commander.

One of the undying feats respected supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il performed for the accomplishment of the cause of building a chuche based army is that he has strengthened and developed our People's Army into an army of the leader and of the party to the letter by leading it to keep alive the tradition of loyalty, the editorial says, and continues:

Another feat of his is that he has strengthened and developed our People's Army into an unrivalled army whose members match a hundred foes each, through a brilliant embodiment of the chuche-based army building line and theories advanced by Comrade Kim Il-song and that he has brought the traditional spirit of the army-people unity into full bloom.

Respected Comrade Kim Chong-il is the most outstanding military strategist of the present time and an ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander.

His military wisdom is the clairvoyance with which he turns a misfortune into a bliss and shapes an ever-victorious policy under whatever complicated military and political situation.

His grit is so steel-like, that he would not budge an inch even when any formidable enemy challenges him and his commanding art is a rare one with which he give a thousandfold impetus to all the soldiers.

It is the greatest honor and happiness of our people and the officers and men of the People's Army to have the great Comrade Kim Chong-il, the greatest of great generals, who is possessed of wisdom, benevolence and valor, as the supreme commander of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and the leader of our party and state.

MINJU CHOSON runs an editorial titled "Led by Great Brilliant Commander, Our Revolutionary Armed Forces Are Invincible."

Delegation From Zaire Visits Kim Il-song Statue

SK2504061795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0430 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 25 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Lumumba Democratic Party of Zaire headed by its Secretary General Ngoy Nduba laid on April 15 a floral basket before a portrait of the great leader President Kim Il-song in the Korean Embassy in Kinshasa and made a bow to him on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

The secretary general had this to say:

"The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is alive forever in the hearts of the Korean people and the world's progressive people and leads us all to freedom, progress and a happy world for his immortal chuche idea and the brilliant revolutionary exploits he performed for the Korean people and the progressive people all over the world and his unforgettable noble figure always finding himself among people.

"Since the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is carrying forward the revolutionary cause of Comrade Kim Il-song, Korea will certainly accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche."

The secretary general sincerely wished Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and a long life for the accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of chuche started by Comrade Kim Il-song, on the significant day.

On the same day, a delegation of the National Movement of the Genuine Lumumbist Combatants of Zaire laid bouquets of flowers before a portrait of President Kim Il-song before making a bow to him.

A delegation of the Zaire-Korea Friendship Association called at the Korean Embassy in Kinshasa to lay a floral basket before a portrait of President Kim Il-song.

On the 15th of April, Indian public figures and an official of the Asian regional organisation laid floral baskets and bouquets before a portrait of President Kim Il-song hung in the Korean Embassy in New Delhi and paid homage to him. Among them were Vishwanath, secretary general of the "International Kim Il-song Prize" council and of the Chuche Idea Study Society of India; Surendra Singh, secretary general of the Indian Youth Group for the Study of Works of Comrade Kim Il-song; Basu, international secretary of the Centre of the Indian Trade Unions; Rajaji Matheu Thomas, general secretary of the all-India Youth Federation; Shashi Bhushan, general secretary of the All-India Freedom Fighter Association; Govind Narain Srivastava, secretary general of the Asian Regional Institute of the Chuche Idea; and Daljit Sen Adel secretary general of the Indian Institute of Socialist Pedagogy.

Alberto Arrospide, director of the "Universal Logistix" Company of Peru, laid a floral basket before the full-length portrait of President Kim Il-song in the Korean Embassy in Lima and made a bow to him.

Birth Anniversary of Kim Il-song Commemorated

SK2204104295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1023 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 22 (KCNA)—Functions were held in various countries to commemorate the birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Commemoration meetings took place in Noepe County, Abe Prefecture of Togo, at the college of journalists of Ghana, in Pekine of Senegal, in Ulaanbaatar of Mongolia, in Tulikhel of Nepal, at the Turku branch of the Finland-Korea Association, in Moscow of Russia and Copenhagen of Denmark.

The speakers of the meetings said that President Kim Il-song was an outstanding thinker and theoretician and a genius of leadership who founded the immortal chuche idea, successfully applied it and led the revolution and construction to victory.

President Kim Il-song is the greatest of great men, who is possessed of qualities and qualification of a great man on the highest level, the speakers said, and continued:

He was a legendary hero who had devoted his whole life to the happiness of the Korean people and the world peoples.

The valuable exploits performed by President Kim Il-song will remain alive in the heart of humankind together with the history.

Lectures were given at the Finnish National Committee for the Study of the Chuche Idea, the Jordanian Centre for the Study of Independence, the Pakistan-Korea Youth Friendship Association, the Peru-Korea Institute of Culture and Friendship, the Chollima Institute of Agricultural Science of Tanzania, the National University of Practical Economics of Senegal, in Topolzany County of Slovakia, at the Togolese Fellowship Society for Cherishing the Memory of President Kim Il-song, the Congolese Association for Friendship Among Peoples, in Dar-es-Salaam of Tanzania and on the Burundi-Korea Friendship Experimental Farm.

A concert for Nigeria-Korea friendship was held at the National Art Theatre of Nigeria, a performance of Korean songs at the hall of the Mongolian Federation of Peace and Friendship Organisations under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Culture and the Mongolia-Korea Friendship Association and a meeting for reading works of reverence at the Cultural Centre in Cairo of Egypt.

Film shows and photo exhibitions took place at the Pori branch of the Finland-Korea Association, the Karachi branch of the Pakistan- Korea Friendship Association, the Danish National Centre for the Study of the Chuche Idea, the Togolese People's Rally, the Lao Revolutionary Museum of Laos and the Kampala National Theatre of Uganda.

Colorful sports functions were organised in Zimbabwe and Guinea.

More Functions Held Abroad

SK2404102295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 24 (KCNA)—Functions took place in different countries on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Meetings for commemorating April 15 were held in Damascus of Syria, Maputo of Mozambique, Lahore of Pakistan, Lugazi of Uganda, Antananarivo of Madagascar, Lagos of Nigeria and Lausanne of Switzerland.

Speakers said at the meetings that the whole life of President Kim Il-song was the life of a distinguished leader who made immortal contributions to the cause of human liberation, holding high the banner of socialism, the banner of independence against imperialism.

They said that President Kim Il-song left tremendous feats and ideological wealth to the Workers' Party and the people of Korea and the whole world. The birthday of President Kim Il-song, the tender- hearted leader of the people, will remain an international holiday forever, they noted.

They stressed that though President Kim Il-song passed away, his august name, revolutionary feats and noble personality will always be kept in the memory of the world progressive humankind.

The French committee for recognizing the Democratic People's Republic of Korea published a memorial address on the birth anniversary of President Kim Il-song.

The memorial address said they will always remember the efforts made by him for a long time for the development of socialism peculiar to the country and of the third world.

It hoped that the heroic life of President Kim Il-song will always be of universal significance in the struggle to build an anthropocentric society on the globe. And it called on the people to learn from his steadfast faith and will.

A ceremony was held at Kim Il-song agricultural special school in Cuba to unveil a bronze plate on the occasion of April 15.

It bears the letters "in memory of President Kim Il-song, the founder of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and a close friend of the Cuban people and the Cuban revolution. The Cuban committee for supporting Korea's reunification, April 15, 1995".

The sun society of Nigeria was formed in Enugu State of Nigeria, on the occasion of April 15, involving hardcores of 23 villages under the jurisdiction of the king of the Umozzi Community and his office workers in different areas of Nigeria.

J. O. Mama, king of the Umozzi Community, was elected chairman of the society.

DPRK film weeks, DPRK photo and book exhibitions and other colorful functions were held in Dhaka of Bangladesh, Georgetown of Guyana and Equatorial Guinea.

More on Leaders Attending KPA Founding Meeting

SK2504082095 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A central report meeting marking the 63d anniversary of the founding of the heroic Korea People's Army [KPA], our party's revolutionary Armed Forces, was held on 24 April at the 8 February Cultural Hall. [passage omitted]

Present at the meeting were Comrade Kang Song-san, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] and premier of the Administration Council; Comrades Yi Chong-ok and Pak Song-chol, members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice presidents; Comrade Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission, member of the party Central Military Commission, and chief of the General Staff of the KPA; Comrade Kye Ung-tae, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Chon Pyong-ho, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, member of the DPRK National Defense Commission, and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Kim Chol-man, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and member of the DPRK National Defense Commission; Comrade Choe Tae-pok, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrades Yi Ul-sol, Kim Kwang-chin, and Kim pong-yul, members of the DPRK National Defense Commission and KPA vice marshals; Comrades Paek Hak-nim and Kim Ik-hyon, KPA vice marshals; Comrade Chang Chol, vice premier of the Administration Council; Comrade Pak Nam-ki, chairman of Pyongyang Municipal Administrative and Economic Committee; functionaries of the party, power organs, and working organizations; anti-Japanese fighters; commanders of the KPA branches of arms and services; generals of the People's Army; heroes of the Republic; and exemplary fighters. [passage omitted]

Comrade Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission, member of the party Central Military Commission, and chief of the General Staff of the KPA, made a commemorative report at the meeting. [passage omitted]

Choe Kwang Addresses Meeting

SK2504044195 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0703 GMT 24 Apr 95

[Speech by Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK and chief of the General Staff of the KPA at a central reporting meeting marking the 63d anniversary of the founding of the KPA at the 8 February Hall of Culture in Pyongyang—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrades: Today, at a time when all of the people throughout the country and officers and men of the People's Army are accelerating the vigorous march for the consummation of the chuche revolutionary cause, upholding the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership in accordance with the lifetime behest of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song and when a new historic turn is being effected in the development of our revolution we commemorate the 63d anniversary of the founding of the Korean People's Army [KPA].

Greeting the KPA founding day, a felicitous revolutionary festive day, according to the respected and beloved supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il's authorization, I, in the name of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] and the Military Commission of the party Central Committee, extend warm congratulations to officers and men of our brave People's Army and the People's Security Forces who are firmly defending the defense line of the fatherland, cherishing in their hearts high loyalty to the party and the leader [suryong]. [applause]

Along with this, I also express noble respects to fallen anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters and patriots of the People's Army who devoted their noble lives to the party and the revolution. [applause]

I also extend warm congratulations to the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters, war veterans, disabled veterans, and discharged soldiers who performed heroic exploits in the arduous anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and the great fatherland liberation war and who are also struggling today, devoting their lives, for the fatherland's reunification and for the victory of the cause of socialism. [applause]

At the same time, I extend warm greetings to all of the people who are waging a vigorous labor struggle for the enrichment and development of our country, our fatherland, and who love soldiers of the People's Army as their blood brothers and are assisting them with all sincerity. [applause]

Comrades: At this moment, which greets the KPA founding day, all officers and men of the People's Army and the people come to keenly feel once again the noble efforts that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song devoted to the founding of our revolutionary armed forces and to their strengthening and development and the immortal achievements that he has produced in the cause of army building.

Already in the early period of his embarkment on the road of the revolution, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song created the chuche idea; and based on it, elucidated the creative and unique way for the anticolonial struggle for national liberation; and presented the chuche-oriented army building line and founded the Korean People's Revolutionary Army [KPRA], our people's genuine revolutionary armed forces.

The founding of the KPRA was the majestic birth of the chuche-type revolutionary armed forces in our country and a historic event that opened a momentous turning point in carrying out our people's revolutionary cause. [applause]

With the founding of the KPRA our people were able to victoriously wage at a new high stage the struggle for the independence of the fatherland and the liberation of the people with their own genuine revolutionary armed forces for the first time in history.

Our People's Army is our party's revolutionary Armed Forces, whose first rank was formed personally by the great leader while he was exploring the road of Korean revolution, and which the great leader fostered as iron-strong combat ranks through the long revolutionary struggle.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song achieved brilliant victories in two revolutionary wars, leading our revolutionary Armed Forces, made a fundamental change in exploring our people's destiny, and stoutly fostered our People's Army as the main forces of the revolution that guarantee the party cause with arms in the struggle against class enemies at home and abroad.

Thanks to the reliable military guarantee prepared by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, our party cause stoutly advanced without failure or frustration in the past and is still victoriously advancing, without flickering in today's worldwide turmoil. This is boundlessly valuable benevolence bestowed on our people by the respected and beloved leader and a great historic contribution that is an eternal asset of our revolution. [applause]

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's leadership achievements in the army building that have been inscribed in the annals of the fatherland will be immortal, along with the chuche Army building history, and the fatherly leader will forever live in the hearts of our people and People's Army officers and men. [applause]

Our People's Army officers and men and our people meaningfully celebrated Army Day every year, upholding the great founder and leader of our party, state, and revolutionary Armed Forces. Today, however, they are greeting it in the greatest grief of unexpectedly losing the fatherly leader.

With growing yearning and overflowing adoration for the great leader Kim Il-song, all People's Army officers and men and the people are now proudly recalling the militant course glorified with victories and honor that our revolutionary Armed Forces have walked along under the leadership of the party and the leader.

Our revolutionary Armed Forces have carried out a heroic struggle to defend the party and the leader and protect the gains of the fatherland and the revolution and have accumulated immortal achievements on the sacred road of guaranteeing the chuche revolutionary cause with arms. [applause]

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught: The immortal feats registered by the KPRA and its direct successor, the People's Army, before the fatherland and the people will shine forever along with the brilliant history of our party and our people's revolutionary struggle.

To build, strengthen, and develop the revolutionary Armed Forces is a life-and-death problem that concerns the destiny of our country and nation, as well as a pivotal question that guarantees the victory of the revolution.

The chuche socialist cause is constantly advancing in our country, overcoming all sorts of trials in history; this cannot be possible without the armed guarantee of the powerful revolutionary Army. Recalling the past, the course of our people's struggle for the national independence and sovereignty was an arduous course of overcoming numerous obstacles and severe trials.

The whole history of our revolution is a history of military confrontation with antirevolution and of days of fierce struggle against various class enemies, such as imperialists and reactionaries.

Thanks to their reliable revolutionary Army founded by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, our people have been able to victoriously advance the struggle for independence and socialism, smashing antirevolutionary violations with revolutionary violations, and to firmly protect the fatherland and the revolution from the imperialists' aggression.

During the anti-Japanese war recorded in the first page of the honorable history of our revolutionary Armed Forces, the KPRA carried out bloody battles for the liberation of the fatherland while being self-sufficient in weapons, ammunition, food, and clothes, under the most difficult condition of having no supplies from the state or support from regular Armed Forces.

In those days of the arduous anti-Japanese war, the KPRA fought in a heroic manner, overcoming all sorts of difficulties, while upholding only the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, a peerless patriot and a legendary hero, as the sun of the revolution, and finally achieved the historic cause of the fatherland's liberation.

In the great fatherland liberation war decisive to the destiny of the fatherland, the KPA that succeeded the KPRA and which has been strengthened and developed to be regular Armed Forces, smashed the combined forces of imperialists, displaying mass heroism and unrivaled self-sacrificing spirit, thus honorably protecting the fatherland's independence and revolutionary gains.

Our people's historic victory achieved in the arduous anti-Japanese war and in the fierce fatherland liberation war was a victory of the chuche-oriented military ideas, creative military tactics, and outstanding Army-leading tactics of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, a great military strategist and an ever-victorious iron-willed general; and it was also the revolutionary Army's victory against the aggressive imperialist forces. [applause]

This great victory of smashing the Japanese imperialist aggressors, who claimed to be the master of Asia, and U.S. imperialist aggressors, who were proud of being the strongest in the world, clearly showed it as a stark historic fact that the strength of the revolutionary Army and independent people, who have risen up for the cause of justice, firmly united around the party and the leader, is matchless and guarantees certain victory.

Our revolutionary Armed Forces, who displayed heroic feats during the two revolutionary wars, have been more firmly strengthened, and have become a mighty defender of the chuche socialist cause, together with the advance of our revolution, by following the leadership of the party and the leader.

Our party's self-reliant defense line assumes as its basis the conversion of the entire Army into a cadre Army; modernizing the whole Army; arming the entire people, and turning the whole country into a fortress, as put forward by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. Through the struggle to carry to accomplishment this line, the might of the People's Army has been strengthened into an invincible one and the nation's defense capabilities have been consolidated into an iron wall.

Our People's Army crushed every step of the enemies' constant aggressive war provocation maneuvers, and thus reliably defended the safety of the fatherland and people. Our People's Army firmly guaranteed the victorious advance of the revolution and construction with armed forces.

Under the leadership of the respected supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, the outstanding military strategist and great sagacious commander, the chuche-based cause of Army building has been constantly deepened and developed onto a new, higher stage.

Through the struggle to carry to accomplishment the line for the chuche-orientation of the whole Army put forward by the respected supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, the new era of great advancement was opened for accomplishing the chuche-based cause of Army building. [applause]

With the chuche-orientation of the whole Army being vigorously accelerated, the tradition of loyalty to the party and the leader, which was created amid the flames of anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and which has been persistently inherited throughout the entire history, began to firmly dominate the entire Army.

Today all the ranks of our People's Army are filled with the thoroughgoing military spirit to absolutely worship and follow only the party and the leader and to fight by unhesitatingly dedicating their lives to the cause of the party—the cause of the leader.

Armaments, equipment, and combat capabilities of the People's Army have been exceedingly strengthened in conformity with the demand of developing revolutionary Armed Forces.

The People's Army has been firmly armed with a powerful offensive and defensive means and all soldiers have been prepared as one-a-match-for-100 fighters possessed of modern military science and technology and of chuche-based tactics.

Our People's Army, which always defended the party's cause at the van, actively participated in the worthwhile struggle to build great monumental creations of the era of the Workers Party, while reliably safeguarding the chuche socialist cause. Thus, the People's Army is honorably fulfilling its mission as the Army of the leader, as the Army of the party, and as the Army of the people, by displaying heroic feats.

Indeed, precious gains of our revolution and great creations have been saturated with the noble blood and sweat shed by officers and men of the People's Army, and the immortal feats achieved by our revolutionary Armed Forces will be brilliant forever in the history of the nation. [applause]

By upholding the leadership of the respected comrade supreme commander, the all-people defense system has been more firmly consolidated with the People's Army as the kernel, and ideological and mental unity between the Army and people has been exceedingly strengthened.

The lofty, laudable custom of military-people unity, which is highly displayed among our people and soldiers of the People's Army, shows that the intentions and will of the soldiers and people are always the same on the road of upholding the respected comrade supreme commander and that the military and the people are firmly united to each other forever.

Because there is the Army of General Kim Chong-il—strong and mighty People's Armed Forces who are firmly armed with the great chuche idea and equipped with modern military science, technology, and ultramodern military equipment—the security of our nation and victory of our revolution are firmly guaranteed. [applause]

Our revolutionary Armed Forces have been strengthened and developed into invincible combat ranks by breaking through all arduous trials of history. Their proud victory and success are a precious fruition brought about by the outstanding leadership of the respected Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il. [applause]

The respected Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, who inherited and is brilliantly developing the chuche cause of Army building pioneered by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, provided a precise guideline for building the revolutionary Armed Forces with uncommon military wisdom and tireless and restless activities, and always directed great efforts for strengthening the combat capabilities of the military.

The idea of military building put forward by the respected comrade supreme commander is the most scientific and revolutionary military theory which is thoroughly based on men-centered philosophical principles and filled with the revolutionary outlook on the leader.

The respected comrade supreme commander put forward the slogan of loyalty, "Let us fight by dedicating our lives to the great leader [suryongnim]!" before our revolutionary Armed Forces. Thus, he led all officers and men so that they could more thoroughly prepare themselves to be loyalists and dutiful sons who defended the party and the leader with their lives by cherishing clear goals of genuine life.

The respected comrade supreme commander established the revolutionary military morality and iron-clad military discipline in the whole Army, and modernized armaments and equipment in compliance with the character of modern warfare and with the demand of chuche-based tactics. Thus, he energetically led the military so that its combat capabilities are exceedingly strengthened.

Thanks to the outstanding military ideas and great leadership of the respected Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, our People's Army has been molded into a strong invincible Army capable of smashing and expelling the imperialists' aggressive troops at a stroke, and of defending the socialist fatherland as an impregnable fortress.

As our people uphold the great, sagacious commander as supreme commander of the revolutionary Armed Forces, we crushed each step of the vicious antisocialist and anti-Republic maneuvers committed by the enemy in recent years, and persistently pushed ahead with socialist construction. Thus, we could win the brilliant victory in acute political and military confrontation with the enemy. [applause]

Last year, when we had the greatest state funeral unprecedented in our 5,000-year-old national history, the imperialists and reactionaries were in fits of nuclear frenzy and tenaciously maneuvered to crush our Republic. The world's conscience expressed deep concern over the fate of Korea [choson].

It was entirely thanks to the respected and beloved supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il's great leadership that even amid the grim circumstances under which the country's situation was extremely acute, the main force of our revolution was able to continue to vigorously advance along its track. [applause]

Vigorously inspiring the entire party, all the people, and the Army to implement the great leader's [suryongnim] lifetime behest, respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il issued the supreme commander's order concerning the second-phase construction of the Chongyu bridge and the construction of Kumnung No. 2 tunnel and more firmly bestowed a faith in certain victory upon our people, thus, making the enemies shudder. This constitutes the demonstration of the greatness of the revolutionary leadership of our comrade supreme commander who is creating only victory in the revolution with matchless courage, iron-like will, and extraordinary farsightedness without faltering at any thunder and lightning. [applause]

Our comrade supreme commander, who first of all visited the People's Army outposts on the first morning of the new year after sending off the year 1994 in tears, again gave on-the-spot guidance to a women's coastal artillery company and naval units stationed at the frontline. Thus, he vigorously inspired the People's Army to outstandingly perform the mission of safeguarding and defending the party's cause as the revolutionary armed forces of the party.

This year, a significant year which marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the WPK and the 50th anniversary of national liberation, respected and beloved comrade supreme commander arranged the ninth KPA agitators meeting and, following this, convened the company commanders and company political instructors meeting, the largest scale in the history of army building. Thus, he opened a momentous turning point in strengthening the combat preparedness and combat capability of the People's Army.

Indeed, the respected and beloved supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il's experienced and tested leadership is the source of the might of our People's Army and a decisive guarantee for all of our victories. [applause]

Because respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il who is leading the chuche revolutionary cause, stands with us at the head of our party, state, and revolutionary armed forces, with the same appearance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, our minds are stable, and our people and Army will be victorious forever not only today, but also in the future.

Upholding Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is a matchless, great man and a genius of politics and military, as the great leader [yongdoja] of our party and people and as the supreme commander of our revolutionary Armed Forces; infinitely glorifying the immortal achievements in army building that the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song registered; and consistently consummating the chuche revolutionary cause. This is precisely the utmost glory and the greatest happiness of our people and officers and men of the People's Army. [applause]

At this significant meeting celebrating the 63d anniversary of the founding of the KPA, cherishing their unanimous feelings of reverence and minds of loyalty, officers and men of the KPA extend most noble respects and eternal glory to the great leader of our party and people Comrade Kim Il-song, the lodestar of national liberation and the progenitor of socialist Korea—who founded our revolutionary Armed Forces under the banner of the chuche idea, rescued the destiny of the fatherland by leading the two revolutionary wars to victory, and, thus, provided a new era of national grandeur and prosperity—and extend the utmost honor and the warmest gratitude to the respected and beloved Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader of our party and people, who has provided a firm military guarantee for the victory of our revolution by brilliantly inheriting and developing the cause of chuche-oriented army building, who is leading the cause of socialism to the single road of victory, and who is highly enhancing the honor and dignity of the nation of Kim Il-song. [applause]

Comrades: Today, our party and people are faced with the heavy but honorable task to make our country, our fatherland, richer and to consummate the chuche revolutionary cause to the end under the party's militant slogans.

Making our country, the socialist fatherland of chuche, which is enjoying constant grandeur and prosperity under the banner of the chuche idea, richer was the great leader's lifetime will and is the basic philosophy of our party. All of us should firmly unite as one mind and one will and should vigorously fight to make chuche Korea, the socialist fatherland, where the nation of Kim Il-song lives, richer by upholding the noble intent of the fatherly leader [suryong] and the party.

What is important in making our country, our fatherland, richer is to have a firm faith in socialism and to faithfully uphold our party's cause of socialism to the end. Socialism is a science, and its victory is certain.

We should have the firm faith that as long as the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il leads us, our cause of socialism is ever- victorious and invincible and should concentrate all efforts on the sacred cause of achieving the enrichment and prosperity of the fatherland under, the leadership of the comrade supreme commander.

The immortal revolutionary achievements made by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song are the wealth for all generations to come for the victory of the socialist cause. To resolutely defend and safeguard, and glorify, them is the most important duty and mission of our people and soldiers.

As befitting the warriors of the great leader [suryongnim] and sons [cheja] of the great leader [suryongnim], all people and the officers and men of the People's Army should glorify the greatness of our leader [suryongnim] for all generations to come, by firmly defending, and loyally inheriting and developing, the respected and beloved leader's [suryongnimui] immortal revolutionary achievements, while upholding the party's basic slogans, such as: "The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is forever with us" and "Let us more thoroughly arm ourselves with the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's revolutionary ideology." [applause]

In order to strenuously advance our party's cause, the socialist cause, it is necessary to continuously concentrate many efforts on strengthening the People's Army, our party's revolutionary armed forces.

The respected and beloved Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il has pointed out: The more intense the class enemies' challenge to the revolutionary cause becomes, the more firmly we should fortify the revolutionary armed forces and the better we should be prepared for fighting [ssaum].

What is important in increasing the combat capability of the People's Army and completing its preparedness for fighting is that the soldiers of the People's Army should more firmly make political and ideological preparations.

We should carry out the political and ideological indoctrination work, whose basic form is the indoctrination of loyalty, in an positive fashion within the People's Army, so that all soldiers can become guns and bombs that will defend the party's cause and the socialist fatherland with their life, and safeguard the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander in a death-defying manner under any hardship, while harboring the absolute sense of loyalty to the party and the leader [suryong] and the firm conviction in socialism. [applause]

We should further strengthen and develop the People's Army as the party's revolutionary armed forces, which are endlessly loyal to the revolutionary cause of chuche, by thoroughly embodying the chuche- oriented military ideology, theory, and tactics in army building and military activities, while consistently adhering to, and vigorously pushing for, the party's line on imbuing the entire army with the chuche idea.

We should establish the revolutionary military ethos within the People's Army on the basis of the party spirit, and help the iron- like discipline and order, under which everybody moves as one in accordance with the orders and directives of the comrade supreme commander, firmly prevail in the entire army.

The officers and men of the People's Army should firmly arm themselves with the chuche-oriented view of war and make more preparations for fighting, and therefore, they should be fully prepared for the combat mobilization [manbanui chontudongwontaeserul kachuoyahamnida], so that they can firmly defend the party's cause with the barrels of guns under any unexpected circumstances [kuotton puluiui chonghwangesodo].

The People's Army should prepare all soldiers as high-mettled fighters, who have the wonderful and superb tactics, expert military technology in their own sectors, marksmanship worthy of a crack shot, and strong physical strength, by carrying through the party's five-point program on training and four-point principle on training under the slogan "Training, too, is combat," while adhering to combat and political training as its basic task.

We should exert efforts to strengthen the companies, the cells, and basic battle units of the People's Army, and turn all the companies into iron-like militant ranks of the chuche-type revolutionary soldiers. While strengthening the People's Army, we should continue to implement the policy of arming all the people and turning the entire country into a fortress, so as to more firmly harden the all-people defense system. Members of the Red Worker-Peasant Militia and the Red Youth Guards should be fully prepared in political and ideological, and military and technological aspects in order to cope with any given situation on their own initiative.

Single-hearted unity is an honorable tradition of our revolution and the source of invincible might. In strengthening the single- hearted unity among the revolutionary ranks, it is important for the entire party membership, all the people, and the entire Army to uphold the leader [yongdoja] with loyalty. As the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters trusted and followed the great leader [suryong] and stoutly walked along the arduous road of revolution in the past, all the people and soldiers should invariably uphold the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is our revolution, destiny and future, with loyalty and filial piety in peacetime or at a time of arduous trial, and fight on to the end following the leadership of the comrade supreme commander. [applause]

We should defend the single-hearted unity of our revolutionary ranks centered around the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il like the pupils of our eyes and strengthen the unity like rocks. We should complete the chuche socialist cause with the might of the single-hearted unity. The unity between officers and men, between the Army and the people, between the party and the League of the Socialist Workers Youth of Korea is an important demand of more firmly guaranteeing the unity between our Army and people, who are united around the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander, in ideology and will, and in morality and faithfulness.

Officers and men of the People's Army should firmly unite in the revolutionary comradeship and highly display the soldier-loving spirit so that the ethos, with which soldiers and commanding officers always love and care for each other like blood brothers, prevails in all the ranks of the People's Army. Soldiers of the People's Army should love the people anytime, anywhere and thoroughly defend the life and properties of the people; the people should wholeheartedly care for and support the People's Army with the love of their own blood. We should establish the ethos that places emphasis on military affairs in the entire society, and in case of emergency, the Army and the people should become one and thoroughly destroy the invaders [chimnyakchadurul cholchohi kyongmyolhaeya hagesumnida].

Properly carrying out the socialist construction is an honorable obligation for further strengthening and developing the socialism of our own style and for completing the chuche revolutionary cause. We should consistently carry out the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—further solidify the already achieved results in the socialist construction, and achieve a new greater victory in endlessly strengthening the might of the country.

Our main mission in today's socialist economic construction is to implement the party's revolutionary economic strategies.

All party members and working people should thoroughly implement the agriculture-first policy, the light industry-first policy, and the trade-first policy by displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, upholding the fatherly leader's behest and the party's idea. They should also firmly give priority to the coal industry, the electric power industry, and railway transportation and continuously develop the metal industry.

Under the slogan "Let us greet the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] with great political zeal and brilliant labor results," we should effect a new upsurge in the socialist construction, mobilizing the entire party, the entire Army, and all the people. By doing so, we should make this meaningful year a most brilliant year of victory in the history of our fatherland. [applause]

Reunification of the fatherland is the supreme national task for our people, which cannot be delayed any further. It was the fatherland's reunification and none other that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song made efforts to achieve until the last moment of his great life. While he was alive, the fatherly leader presented the most reasonable and realistic method of reunification of the fatherland and wisely led the struggle to realize it, thus preparing for the bright prospect of reunification.

However, the South Korean authorities continue to rely upon outside forces and pursue North-South confrontation and are seeking eternal division, ignoring our generous proposals and all the people's aspiration for reunification.

The U.S. conservative forces have not yet abandoned a hostile view of us and have continuously strengthened military buildup maneuvers and military commotions against us in South Korea, while openly revealing their attempt to use arms [mugugui posu seryokturun urie taehan choktaejok kwallyomul poriji anko muryok haengsa kidorul konggongyonhi turonaemyonso namjosoneso murok chunggang chaektonggwa urirul pandaehanun kunsajok sodongul kyesok kanghwahago issumnida]. The United States and the South Korean puppets have systematically amplified military pressure and threats against us. They are again scheming to mobilize numerous troops and advanced military equipment to conduct a new joint military exercise against us. This is an outrageous violation [nanpokhan wiban] of the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework and a duplicate of the Team Spirit joint military exercise, as well as a grave challenge [omjunghan tojon] against us.

Due to the anti-Republic maneuvers and military commotions by the United States and the South Korean puppet clique, a severe and difficult situation has been created on the road to the fatherland's reunification; the atmosphere of confrontation has deepened on the Korean peninsula; and the war danger has yet to be removed on the peninsula.

All these facts show that traitor Kim Yong-sam is indeed a vicious challenger to the fatherland's reunification, an utterly flunky nation-seller, and an unforgivable national traitor, as well as prove that the U.S. ambition of aggression has not changed.

The Kim Yong-sam traitorous clique cannot clear itself, with anything, of its unparalleled felony of (?thoroughly low quality), nor can it escape from the rigorous judgment of history and the people.

The United States should look squarely at the trend of the times and act with discretion [migukun taeseui hurumul ttokparobogo punbyolikke chosinhayoyamyo]; and should stop military exercises under various names and maneuvers of military provocation which it is conducting along with the South Korean authorities.

Our people love peace and do not want war; but, they never beg for peace.

Our people, who regard independence as their life, will never tolerate anyone's infringement upon our sovereignty; nor will they allow any aggressor to recklessly touch any single plant or any single tree of our sacred fatherland [kuotton chimnyakchado sinsonghan uri chogukui pulhanpogi namuhangurudo hamburo kundurilsuopke halgossimnida].

Force is not all-mighty; and it is a silly, wild fancy to try to make us give in with force [himun mannungi animyo himuro uirirul kulboksikiryonungossun orisokun mangsangimnida].

If the United States continues to traverse the road of military adventure by adhering to the policy of force while running counter to the present (?international) trend toward the reduction of tension, the United States will gain nothing out of it; and the United States will be totally responsible for all consequences therefrom [kugieso odulgossiran amugotto opssumyo kurobuto choraedoenun modun hugwae taehayo chonjokin chaekimul chige toelgossimnida].

Our people will resolutely smash the maneuvers of the splitists at home and abroad and will achieve the reunification in the 1990's by all means [kioi] under the leadership of the respected and beloved Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il. [applause]

In the future, too, our party and the Government of the Republic will consistently accomplish the foreign policy of independence, peace, and friendship and will make active efforts for the world's peace and independence. [applause]

Today's struggle of our people is arduous, but it is an honorable and sacred struggle for the prosperity and thriving of our fatherland and for the future of humankind.

Our people and Army, which are fighting on for the just cause while following the wise leadership of the respected and beloved Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il and upholding the banner of the chuche idea, are ever-victorious and invincible. [applause]

Let all of us continue to vigorously fight on for the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland and for the consummation of the revolutionary cause of chuche, while firmly rallying around the party Central Committee centered around the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader [yongdoja] of our party and our people and the supreme commander of our revolutionary armed forces! [applause]

Long live the revolutionary ideology of the great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Il-song! [applause and cheers]

Long live the glorious WPK, the organizer and guide of all victories of the Korean people! [applause and cheers]

Long live the heroic Korean People's Army, the revolutionary armed forces of our party! [applause and cheers]

North Hwanghae Utilizing Export Goods Sources

SK2204041095 Pyongyang MINJU CHOSON in Korean 22 Mar 95 p 1

[By reporter Sung Yuk-pyo]

[FBIS Translated Text] The great leader [suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song has taught:

"Various sectors of the people's economy must firmly manage the production base for export goods, increase the production of export goods, and enhance its quality."

Cities and counties in North Hwanghae Province are actively surveying and mobilizing local inner reserves by highly upholding the fatherly leader's [suryong] will when he was alive as well as the party's intention. Thus, cities and counties are achieving new results by vigorously carrying out the struggle to increase production of export goods.

Functionaries of each city and county in the province, who have made strenuous efforts to further implement the party's trade-first policy, are deeply making the workers recognize the significance and importance of increasing export goods in enhancing the people's standard of living. Thus, their enthusiasm is being actively called forth.

The Administrative and Economic Committees of cities and counties are effectively organizing economic organization work and mobilizing and utilizing more sources of export goods to solve problems arising in the production of export goods.

Cities and counties in the province are highly establishing this year's export plan and militarily carrying out the struggle to realize it without fail.

Hwangju County, the city of Songnim, and Unpa County found unprecedented amounts of sources of export goods on a mass scale, and sufficiently secured the necessary raw material and materials, thus achieving innovations in production of export goods.

In Hwangju County, the sources of raw material and materials such as straw goods and stone industrial art objects were effectively used, thus greatly increasing the production of export goods.

Functionaries and workers of the housewives' production cooperative increased the kinds of new export goods this year to 20 kinds, and are daily producing two times more as compared with the same time before.

According to the real situation of having sufficiently provided necessary raw material and materials, Songnim and Unpa County are widely organizing and operating housewives' work teams and sideline teams to produce export goods by available manpower and housewives, thus increasing production of export goods.

In particular, in Songnim some 100 chongbo [1 chongbo=2.45 acres] of base for raw material cultivation and for natural raw materials were created. Here the yield of harvesting was enhanced, thus expanding results in the production of export goods. This year, the production of straw goods was enhanced by 1.8 percent compared with last year.

In other cities and counties—including Sohung, Insan, and Sinpyong Counties—sources of export goods were actively found, thus increasing the number of kinds of export goods and productivity.

Functionaries and workers of the Insan Straw Goods Work Site are guaranteeing they can provide the required raw material and materials one quarter in advance and are accelerating production. Thus, it boasted of completing the first quarter target of production of export goods for this year. Producers here are sincerely carrying out the work to safekeep and manage raw material and materials and are strictly abiding by the demands of the technology regulations and standard manufacture procedure in production of straw goods, thus guaranteeing its quality.

Workers and producers of export goods of the Sohung Straw Goods Production Cooperative thoroughly established the trait of fulfilling its daily target without fail; thus, it is achieving results, producing high-quality products 130 percent.

As such, cities and counties in the province are achieving new innovations in implementing the party's trade-first policy to elucidate the 50th anniversary of the party's founding and the 50th anniversary of the fatherland liberation with brilliant labor results.

Taean Heavy Machinery Complex Reports Gains

SK2204114795 Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 2 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by correspondent Yi Myong-chan from the Taean Heavy Machinery Complex]

[FBIS Translated Text] The party members and working class of the Taean Heavy Machinery Complex, the breeding ground of the chuche-oriented economic management system, are continuously achieving upsurges in production, while harboring the burning spirit to shiningly embroider the 50th anniversary of the founding of the party with proud labor exploits.

The party members and machine operators, who have kept deep in their heart the significance and importance of the power generating equipment in terms of the accomplishment of the party's revolutionary economic strategy, have carried out a lot of work in this year alone. They have achieved great successes in the production of 45,000-kilowatt-, 50,000-kilowatt-power generating equipment; produced complete sets of several hydroelectric power generators; and sent them to power plants. And, they have achieved great successes also in the production of ordered equipment needed for the plants and enterprises in various sectors of the people's economy, including the Komdok Mining Complex. Therefore, the party members and machine operators in the Taean Heavy Machinery Complex have wonderfully accomplished the tasks assigned to them by the party, thereby having the honor of receiving a high evaluation from the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il on several occasions in this year alone.

At the present moment, the entire land in Taean is seething with the fervor of loyalty to return the party's repeated care and great trust with greater successes in production.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il has pointed out:

"Party organizations should help cadres and party members thoroughly accomplish the teachings of the great leader [suryongnim] and the policies of the party by highly displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude."

While upholding the party's intentions, the workers and technicians of the complex are more vigorously carrying out the struggle for increased production by highly displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance. In conformity with the circumstances in which battles are being vigorously carried out to produce large-scale power generating equipment and various ordered equipment, the party committee is helping all units boldly carry out their work; is helping them give solid priority to the political work in accordance with the demands of the Taean work system; and is helping them meticulously organize and carry on the supply work. In particular, the general staff is more rationally carrying on the organization of the alternative production, while concentrating its technical guidance on the preceding processes, such as steel casting, molding, and heat treatment.

The functionaries of the complex, who have gone down to the workshops which are seething with the struggle for increased production, are carrying on the organization and command of production in conformity with the circumstances which are changing from time to time, and are finding out on a timely basis the problems, which can be knotty, and are getting ahead of others in solving such problems with the sense of responsibility. In particular, the functionaries are leading the producing masses to endless innovations, while thrusting their shoulders in and setting examples, and showing by practice rather than by precept, in difficult and hard works.

Having risen up with the rock-firm faith that they will do what the party decides, the party members and machine operators in the of the manufacturing and assembly sector of the power generating equipment are creating new innovations in the manufacturing of the (?rotary double reinforcement) of the 45,000-kilowatt-power generator and in the assembly of its spare parts. While keeping deep in their heart the fact that to produce more quickly even a single large power generator of higher quality and to further increase the country's power generating capacity is to realize the lifetime wishes of the great leader [suryongnim], the machine operators are increasingly overfulfilling their daily targets by accepting new manufacturing methods and reasonable assembly jigs. And, the welding workers and steel metal processing workers in the power generating equipment's steel metal processing sector are achieving brilliant successes in the manufacturing of large-scale power generators to be sent to the construction site of the Western District Power Plant.

The party members and machine operators at the preceding processes are also rushing forward in high spirits. And, with the approach of the upcoming battle to manufacture a 50,000-kilowatt-power generator and a hydroelectric turbine shaft, the machine operators of the heat treatment workshop are concentrating their efforts on making preparations for (?re-melting), while bringing together their creative wisdom with that of the technicians.

Meanwhile, the party members and machine operators at the large machine workshop, who are achieving exploits in the production of ordered equipment, are also achieving successes every day in the manufacturing of the rolling equipment to be sent to the Kim Chaek Iron Works. Successes are being achieved also in the battle fields of the production of electric motors, current transformers, and insulators.

Taean's working class is fiercely igniting the flames of the struggle for increased production at every work site, full of conviction and optimism.

Electric Power Plants Built in Songchon, Sadong

SK2104151095 Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 24 Mar 95 p 3

[By reporter Chong Yong-chol]

[FBIS Translated Text] From Songchon County. The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: "The fastest way to smoothly meet the ever-increasing demands for electric power is to wage the construction of medium- and small-type electric power plants as a nationwide movement, along with accelerating the construction of large-type electric power plants."

Functionaries and working people in Songchon County are vigorously waging the struggle to complete ahead of schedule as soon as possible the construction of a hydroelectric power plant which has been carried out with their own strength, upholding the party's intent.

At present, the construction of this power plant has completed 70 percent of the total construction work. This power plant is to produce electricity in such a way as to dam up Piryu River which proceeded to the area in front of the seat of Songchon County and to pass water through a several hundred meter-long tunnel so as to gain water head. This power plant will install several generators from which we can produce large quantities of electricity in the future.

Responsible functionaries of the county, deeply realizing the significance and importance of the construction of this power plant in more properly implementing the party's revolutionary economic strategy and in making the county a better place to live, are organizing and commanding responsibly the battle to complete the construction work ahead of schedule.

Under the guidance of its party committee, the county has organized the construction forces by mobilizing young people and provided strong technological forces to the construction work. Thus, the county is properly carrying out organizational work so that the construction work can be vigorously accelerated.

Young people, who are mobilized in the power plant construction work, are filled with the burning determination to perform exploits in the rewarding struggle for bringing the party's intent to full bloom and are working hard with sweat running down in torrents.

Despite the difficult situation under which the county has to carry out the construction of this large-capacity power plant with its own strength, the young people are speeding up the construction, cherishing the iron-willed faith of doing anything once the party decides on it, while, with their own strength, solving problems arising in the construction process.

Particularly, they are accelerating the tunneling, the most difficult work of the power plant construction. They are cutting the time required for the tunneling by preparing many pieces of equipment on their own, including hutches, rails, and pressers, and by doing the drifting and expansion of the pits simultaneously.

Functionaries and working people of Songchon County are vigorously launching the drive to advance the day they submit the report of loyalty to the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il after expediting the completion of the power plant.

From Sadong District. Waterways in Sadong District farms spread like a network. The district has built many small to medium power plants along the routes of the waterways, and produces electricity internally for use in agricultural production.

The functionaries decided to generate power using the irrigation canals that stretch across the cooperative field, went to the field to discover the spots that could guarantee water heads, and built small to medium power plants there.

Functionaries and workers of the power-distribution station established concrete measures for providing equipment and materials for the power-plant construction.

Along the irrigation canal in Oryu-ri, Oryu No. 1, Oryu No. 2 Power Plants, and a number of other small to medium power plants were built. Electricity produced in these power plants pumps up water for sprinklers in the state-run Oryu Farm. The electricity is also used for threshing, production of small to medium farming tools, and lighting in the area and farm villages.

With the goal of building more small to medium power plants in every irrigation canal and meeting the increasing demand for power supply, the district is building small to medium power plants with bright prospects.

Increase in Number of Technicians, Experts Noted

SK2404102395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1010 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 24 (KCNA)—27 farmers of the Hwaam cooperative farm in Chonchon County, Korea's inland Province of Chagang, recently finished their course at Chagang College under the system of part-time study while working and became sericultural experts.

This brought the number of the technicians and experts of the farm to more than 200.

There are many technicians and experts with advanced agro- science and technique in the countryside of Korea.

The number of technicians and experts of the Sokchon County agricultural complex is more than 16 times that some 30 years ago.

The Yongchon cooperative farm in Hwangju County, North Hwanghae Province, has more than 280 agronomists, assistant agronomists and experts. More than 50 per cent of the farmers of the Munjang cooperative farm in Kwaksan County, North Pyongan Province, are agronomists and assistant agronomists.

One of three or four farmers is a technician or an expert on many cooperative farms including the Sangso cooperative farm in Anju, the Kangan cooperative farm in Unpa County and the Changsuwon cooperative farm in Samsok district.

The reliable technicians and experts trained at state expense contribute to the successful management and operation of the socialist rural economy.

Countries Urged To Fight Against 'Dominationism'

SK2204110595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1052 GMT 22 Apr 95

["NODONG SINMUN Calls For Active Struggle Against Dominationism"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 22 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's idea that newly-emerging countries should get united and fight against all manner of dominationism including imperialism is a guideline that should always be maintained by the world's progressive people in their struggle for global independence, says NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today.

The great leader with scientific insight and clairvoyance expounded from a new angle the idea of anti-dominationist struggle, the article says, and continues:

As the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song said, dominationism is a counterrevolutionary idea contradictory to the trend of the present era toward independence and a target of joint struggle of the revolutionary people around the world.

Dominationism is, in essence, to infringe upon independence of other countries and to bring other nations and peoples under control.

It is the nature of the imperialists and dominationists to bring other countries under control and keep them in subjection in an attempt to hold sway over the peoples. The imperialists look upon it as their way of existence to infringe upon independence of the popular masses and engage themselves in class and national repression and domination.

Dominationism finds expression in countries, large and small, and in the capitalist countries and in any other countries.

The great leader's idea of anti-dominationist struggle has been and will be a precious guide to the struggle of the progressive people all over the world.

For all the countries and nations to firmly abide by independence is the basic principle that should be maintained by them in their struggle to build a new world free from all manner of domination and subjugation and a basic way for guaranteeing victory in it as well.

If all the countries and nations stand true to independence, dominationist forces will become impotent.

The policy of anti-dominationist struggle advanced by the great leader is a flawless revolutionary one in view of its ideological and theoretical basis, the profundity and revolutionary nature of content and the theoretical and practical significance.

For this, the idea has been a valuable revolutionary wealth of the world's revolutionary people and a banner that indicates the road ahead of their struggle.

Article Stresses Importance of Party Leadership

SK2504084095 Pyongyang MINJU CHOSON in Korean 24 Mar 95 p 2

[Article by Choe Chong-hon: "Our Party's Leadership Is the Guarantee for the Prosperity and Development of the Socialist Fatherland"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our revolutionary cause pioneered in the forest of Paektu is today advancing, victory after victory, to a new high stage. The might of our fatherland, which has risen high as a socialist tower of success, is extraordinarily gaining in strength. This is because our great party—which is advancing, highly flying the banner of the chuche idea—is standing at the forefront of our revolution.

Today our people are filled with the firm faith and will to staunchly struggle for our fatherland's prosperity and development under our party's leadership, while firmly believing the bright future of the socialist fatherland, which is enjoying infinite grandeur and development, from the leadership of the party which is leading our revolution to the single road of victory, with absolute dignity.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: "To defend our country's socialism centered on the popular masses and to brilliantly consummate the chuche revolutionary cause it is imperative for the entire party and all the people to properly uphold and follow Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership. A firm guarantee for inheriting and consummating the cause of socialism lies precisely in properly upholding Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership."

The party's leadership is a guarantee for building a rich and powerful fatherland. The struggle to build a dignified and rich fatherland is carried out with a country and nation as a unit. Since each country and nation has its own border and own economy, the destiny of each country and nation depends on the leading role of the party which leads its revolution.

The party is the general staff of the revolution and the leading force of society. The working class' party unfolds a blueprint for building its fatherland in conformity with the demands of the developing revolution and with the specific situation of its country, and organizes and mobilizes the people into the realization of the blueprint by making them conscious of it and well organized. The guiding principle and the main force of the revolution for building a rich and powerful fatherland, as well, are provided by the party, and the strategies and tactics for the prosperity and development of a country and nation, too, are implemented by the party.

The party's leadership is the leader's [suryong] leadership. When we refer to our party's leadership, this precisely means the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership.

The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership is a firm guarantee which makes it possible to brilliantly realize the respected and beloved leader's [suryong] lifetime will. Trying to build on this land a paradise of the people on which the popular masses' independent ideal is brought into full bloom was precisely the respected and beloved leader's [suryong] lifetime will. The great leader [suryong] embarked on the road of the revolution with this lofty ideal when he was a teenager. For the lengthy period from that time until he attained the advanced age of 80 years, he devoted his all to our people's freedom and happiness and to the prosperity and development of our fatherland, without taking a rest, even for a moment. In this way, he has provided a firm foundation for our fatherland's eternal grandeur and prosperity. All revolutionary gains, eternal assets, and our people's happy life that we can witness everywhere in our country today reflect the great leader's [suryong] great love for the fatherland.

Further enriching our fatherland, built by the great leader [suryong] through his whole life of devotion, and our socialist fatherland, the crystal of the leader's [suryong] ideology and leadership, is precisely the firm determination of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is wisely leading our people's struggle for enriching and developing our socialist fatherland through his tested leadership. As a result, he has unfolded a great golden age of grandeur and prosperity, unprecedented in the history of our fatherland. Thus, the national strength of our fatherland is constantly strengthening, and our people have become a dignified people who are vigorously advancing, looking ahead to the future of communism with certainty.

It is our people's supreme fortune that they are upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il—who is equipped with knowledge, military quality, loyalty, and filial piety and who is enjoying infinite respect and absolute confidence from the popular masses for his immortal achievements—at the head of our party, state, and Army. Herein lies the firm guarantee for enriching and developing the socialist fatherland.

The party's leadership becomes the guarantee for enriching and developing the socialist fatherland because it, first of all, brilliantly elucidates the road ahead for building a rich and powerful fatherland.

The struggle to achieve the country's enrichment and development is an awesome struggle to achieve revolutionary transformation in all fields—political, economic, cultural, and military. It is also a difficult and complicated work which has to be carried out amid a fierce fight against the imperialists and all sorts of class enemies. Therefore, this struggle can win brilliant victory only under a proper, guiding principle.

The question of providing a proper line which elucidates the road ahead for building a rich and powerful fatherland can be solved only by the party's leadership.

From the historic day when he adopted the clear spirit and energy of Mt. Paektu and solemnly pledged on top of Mt. Yongnam to glorify the fatherland, the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has written numerous classical works not only to elucidate the basic way for the popular masses to pioneer their destinies, but also to provide the guideline for achieving enrichment and development of the socialist fatherland.

The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who standardized the respected and beloved leader's [suryong] revolutionary ideology into a monolithic system of ideology, theory, and method of chuche and deepened and developed the chuche idea in conformity with the demands of the present era and our developing revolution, presented the program of modeling the whole society on the chuche idea. Thus, he has brilliantly elucidated the way through which our revolution can be consistently advanced according to the leader's [suryong] ideology and intent and presented the correct line, policy, and struggle slogan for the enrichment and development of the fatherland and the nation at every stage of the developing revolution.

The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's ideological and theoretical activities are characterized thoroughly by the safeguarding, defense, and glorification of the respected and beloved leader's [suryong] ideology and achievements. Viewing the respected and beloved leader's [suryong] revolutionary ideology, that is, the chuche idea, as the eternal life of our fatherland and believing that our fatherland's enrichment and development can only be achieved when we take the chuche idea as its guiding principle, the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has presented lines and policies based entirely on the leader's [suryong] revolutionary ideology and unfolded blueprints for all fields, including party building, the building of the people's government, economic and cultural construction, and military work, according to the leader's [suryong] plan and intent.

Mastering loyalty to the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song at the highest plane, the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is striving to overcome with his iron-like will, the great pain of losing the fatherly leader [suryong] which cannot be compared to the sorrow felt by all of our people, who are writhing in sorrow after hearing of the unexpected loss of the fatherly leader [suryong], presented the slogans of faith, "The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is with us forever" and "Let us more thoroughly arm ourselves with the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's revolutionary ideology." Thus, the great leader Comrade Kim Chong- il is meticulously teaching all of our people so that they can implement, without fail, every one of the respected and beloved leader's [suryong] lifetime teachings with an extraordinarily untiring spirit. As a result of this, the leader's [suryong] ideology and achievements, which have opened the new beginning of building a rich and powerful fatherland, and our party's glorious revolutionary tradition are being firmly defended, and our revolution's lifeline is being carried out in our country today.

Through the practical experiences in their routine life, our people realize that the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's ideology is the best, and that when we follow the teachings of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il there is no problem in socialist construction and national reunification, and the fatherland's enrichment and development can be achieved. Thanks to the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's brilliant wisdom, the grand blueprints that the respected and beloved leader [suryong] unfolded while alive and looking ahead to the distant future, are being unfolded as reality, and the fatherland's enrichment and development, are being firmly guaranteed.

The party's leadership constitutes the guarantee for the fatherland's enrichment and development because the party's leadership also makes it possible to extraordinarily strengthen the main force of the revolution and to vigorously accelerate socialist construction on the strength of the might of the main force.

The main force of the revolution is the united body of the leader [suryong], the party, and the masses. Enriching and developing the country begins with firmly building the main force of the revolution, which is in charge of enriching and developing the country, and is successfully carried out by the leading activities and role of the main force. Therefore, there is nothing more important than strengthening the main force of the revolution in enriching and developing the country and the nation. When the main force of socialist construction is strengthened, we can outstandingly build a rich fatherland without faltering, no matter how strongly the wind blows.

Viewing the work of strengthening the main force of the revolution as the primary question in the struggle for socialism, our party has firmly strengthened the main force of the revolution and turned adversity into prosperity through the might of the main force. Thus, our party has demonstrated our fatherland's dignity and might to the world. The might of the main force of the revolution which has grown and become strengthened since the formative period of our revolution has become more invincible as our people have upheld the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il at the head of our revolution.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il has built the powerful main force of our revolution by strengthening and developing our party into an invincible chuche-type, revolutionary party and by rallying all the people around it. He has also closely combined the party's leadership and the revolutionary mass line, given priority to the political work of reforming human beings, and unfolded the all-embracing politics of love and trust. Thus, he has achieved the olidest unity and cohesion of our revolutionary ranks.

Today, our people are following the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il with absolute respect, upholding him as their father and as the pillar of their minds. They are firmly rallied around Comrade Kim Chong-il ideologically, mentally, morally, and with a sense of obligation. Thus, they have achieved firm unity today.

All members of society breathe, act, and speak according to the party's intent. They have formed the solidest unity and cohesion based on revolutionary, comradely love and a sense of obligation. They live in peace, helping and leading each other.

Abiding by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song's lifetime behest and the firm oath that they made before the spirit of the departed leader [suryong], all of our people are today firmly united in one mind and one will around the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and devoting their burning loyalty and patriotic zeal and wisdom to the struggle for the enrichment and development of the socialist fatherland. This proud canvas vividly shows the genuine appearance of singlehearted unity in which the whole society has become a large family, upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as the center of unity and cohesion.

The party's leadership becomes a firm guarantee for enriching and developing the socialist fatherland because the leadership also makes it possible to consistently adhere to and embody the revolutionary position and principles.

Firmly adhering to and embodying the revolutionary position and principles is the basic question to build a rich and powerful fatherland under the banner of socialism. The circumstances and conditions for the struggle to enrich and develop the country may vary. However, the popular masses' basic demands and position for the realization of independence do not change. Therefore, to achieve the enrichment and development of the socialist fatherland in accordance with the popular masses' inherent desire for independence, it is imperative to consistently adhere to and embody the revolutionary position and principles without fail.

The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has presented the struggle slogans, "Let us live our own way" and "Ideology, technology, and culture—all in accordance with the demands of chuche" which reflect the faith of our party and people. In this way, he has seen to it that the revolutionary position is consistently adhered to in the process of the revolution and construction. He has also seen to it that the party's leadership is firmly guaranteed, that the function and role of the people's regime are constantly enhanced, and that socialist ownership and the planned economy are firmly defended and developed on a continuous basis. Along with this, he has also seen to it that the revolutionary principle of opposing imperialism and of resolutely struggling against it, is firmly adhered to and embodied.

As the revolutionary position and principle have been consistently adhered to and embodied in the whole course of socialist construction under the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's wise leadership, the struggle for the enrichment and development of the socialist fatherland is being successfully carried out in our country even in today's circumstances in which socialism has been frustrated in some countries and the imperialists' antisocialist, and unscrupulous maneuvers have unprecedented proportions.

Today, our country is living up to its dignified image as an independent, self-reliant, and self-defended, socialist country without being shaken by the vicious maneuvers by the imperialists and reactionaries. This is because under the party's leadership, the revolutionary position and principle are firmly adhered to and thoroughly embodied in the struggle for enriching and developing the country.

Indeed, we cannot think of the dignity and honor of our country and nation and the infinite happiness and promising future of our people apart from the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's wise leadership. The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is the destiny of the fatherland and the nation, the future of the socialist fatherland, and the symbol of all of our victories and happiness.

All functionaries and the working people should cherish deep in their hearts, the utmost fortune of being blessed with the leader [suryong] and the pleasure of upholding, generation after generation, the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership in one mind and one will. Thus, they should infinitely glorify our fatherland, which was regained and built by the respected and beloved leader [suryong], as a rich and dignified powerful socialist country forever.

South Korea

Seoul, U.S. Agree on MAC Delegate Replacement

SK2504053395 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 25 Apr 95 p 2

[Reporter Ku Song-chae]

[FBIS Translated Text] The ROK and the United States decided to replace the delegate to the Military Armistice Commission [MAC] of the United Nations Command from the present general grade officer of the ROK Army to a general-grade officer of the U.S. Forces Korea [USFK], it was learned on 24 April.

It has been learned that the replacement of the MAC delegate will take place in July when Major General Hwang Won-tak will retire from service, and his replacement will be Commodore Edison L. Walkins [name as transliterated], USFK delegate to the MAC and commander of the U.S. Navy in the ROK.

A government source said: After holding close discussion, the ROK and the United States have agreed on the principle of replacing the MAC delegate with an American general-grade officer.

Discuss Ways To Reactivate MAC

SK2504080195 Seoul YONHAP in English 0755 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 25 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the United States are discussing ways to reactivate the Military Armistice Commission (MAC) which North Korea has boycotted since 1991 when a South Korean general was appointed head of the MAC, Foreign Minister Kong No-myong said Tuesday.

"South Korea and the United States are trying to come up with measures to normalize the function of MAC which has been paralyzed by the North as the North agreed only to meetings under the level of secretary to the senior member of MAC," said Kong.

He was responding to reports that the United States is considering replacing the current Korean chief of MAC with an American general to invite the North to MAC meetings.

"There, however, cannot be any unilateral notification to the other side on the appointment of the head of MAC," said the foreign minister dismissing reports that the United States unilaterally informed the South of its decision to replace the Korean general with an American general when the Korean general's tenure expires this coming July.

He repeated that the Korean Armistice Treaty is valid until South and North Korea agree to a peace pact.

The Polish Government also reiterated its position recently that it will continue to do its job as a member of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission under MAC by visiting the country frequently, according to the minister.

IAEA Official: DPRK Continues Nuclear Freeze

SK2504004695 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2326 GMT 24 Apr 95

[By Cha Man-sun from Vienna]

[FBIS Translated Text] The International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] has stated: The measures taken to freeze North Korea's five major nuclear facilities, including the five-megawatt reactor, in accordance with the U.S.-North Korean agreement, have been maintained without any problems even after 21 April when the talks on supplying the light-water reactors in Berlin ended without any progress.

David Kyd, director of the IAEA information sector, stated today that presently North Korea has not shown any signs that it is going to reload the five-megawatt reactor, saying: Three inspectors stationed in North Korea reported to the IAEA that they are presently conducting inspections in Yongbyon and confirmed that North Korea continues to implement its nuclear freeze. The inspectors continue to monitor the nuclear freeze.

Also, experts in North Korean affairs in Vienna assessed: North Korea has maintained its nuclear freeze to date. This indicates that it intends to settle the issue of building the light-water reactors in a package deal. However, they pointed out that it is too early to say that North Korea's nuclear freeze will be continued.

U.S. State Department on IAEA 'Competence'

SK2504041895 Seoul YONHAP in English 0128 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, April 24, (YONHAP)—North Korea has yet to respond to a proposal made by the United States to conduct additional high-level talks in Geneva to break the deadlock over the implementation of the agreed framework signed last October.

In a briefing session at the State Department on Monday, spokesman Nicholas Burns said there has been no word from Pyongyang over the offer. The United States made the proposition on April 21, the initial target date for the agreed framework, after the talks were declared "broken off" by the chief delegate from North Korea, Kim Chong-u.

Burns reiterated Secretary of State Warren Christopher's stand echoing, "We remain very much interested in discussions on this issue, we do not believe this is an insoluble problem."

The spokesman was confident about the competence of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the agency responsible for watchdogging recent threats made by the North that they would restart their nuclear program and the possibility of the North selling nuclear materials to terrorist organizations.

"The agreed framework is not based on trust, it's based on verification. There is continuous IAEA verification of the nuclear power plant in question in North Korea, and we have no indications that the freeze has been broken," he affirmed.

Burns called the freezing of the North's nuclear program a "fundamental condition" for the continuation of bilateral discussions.

No specific date has been scheduled for the talks since there has been no positive reaction from the North Korean Government.

U.S. on DPRK Reply to Geneva Talks Proposal

SK2504051395 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0430 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning the United States informed the ROK Government, through the U.S. Embassy in the ROK, of the contents of the reply it received from North Korea to its proposal for a high-level Geneva talks, and discussed measures henceforth.

The U.S. Embassy sent Mr. Russel, first secretary for political affairs, to the Foreign Ministry today and explained the contents of the reply letter Kang Sok-chu, North Korean vice foreign minister, sent to Robert Gallucci, the U.S. nuclear ambassador [title as heard], in response to the U.S. proposal for high-level political talks.

The contents of the letter which North Korea sent to the United States today was not disclosed immediately, but an official concerned said that he understands that North Korea expressed its willingness to respond to the proposal for negotiation attaching some conditions.

Officials Discuss Response

SK2504073595 Seoul YONHAP in English 0718 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 25 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Kong No-myong said Tuesday that South Korea and the United States are discussing through diplomatic channels ways to respond to the letter recently sent by North Korea's Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-chu to U.S. nuclear ambassador Robert Gallucci on the resumption of high-level nuclear talks between them.

"Kang said in the letter that he would establish his position on the U.S. proposal (made last week immediately after the breakdown of the Berlin nuclear talks) after getting a response from the United States to North Korea's position that the reactors to be provided to the North should be American-made ones and that it will allow only limited role to be played by South Korea in the reactor project," said a high-ranking Foreign Ministry official.

"The letter also insisted that there will be no progress in nuclear talks if the United States continues to demand South Korea play a central role in the reactor project and South Korean-made reactors be used in the project," said the official.

North Korea still insists that the United States should make a revision to the Korean-made Ulchin Nos. 3 and 4 so they could be provided to the North under the framework agreement, said the official.

Reminding that the North maintained during the Berlin talks that it will allow South Korea a role in the production and construction of the reactors, but not in the design of the reactors, the official said that North Korea denounced the South in the letter for trying to provide South Korean-made reactors to the North and trying to link their provision to additional political purposes, that is to break down the socialist system of the North by inviting a breakthrough to the deadlocked inter-Korean dialogue and the North's openness.

North Korea also threatened, in the letter, to defrost part of its nuclear facilities frozen by the framework agreement, reached in Geneva last October, unless nuclear talks continue, according to the official.

He, however, added that the letter also showed the North's acknowledgement of the seriousness of the issue and its apparent willingness to solve the present deadlock through dialogues.

Foreign Minister Kong meeting with reporters at a luncheon held Tuesday also said, "Talks should be held in an open-minded manner with no conditions attached."

He urged the North to meet with American negotiators in Geneva to solve the stalemated nuclear issue and denounced the North for attaching preconditions to its taking part in the Geneva talks proposed by the United States.

South Korea and the United States still need to hold talks with the North in order to grasp its real intentions because, "It's not the case to be solved by just capping the Korean reactors, although the North continues to insist on putting the American brand cap on the Korean reactors," said the minister.

"In reality, it's technically impossible for us to proceed with the reactor project without having a reference reactor in mind to be provided to the North," said Kong dismissing the North's demand that the Ulchin Nos. 3 and 4 be redesigned prior to being provided to the North.

He said that no one can proceed with a reactor project without using an existing reactor as a reference model.

He also said that the issues concerning the type of reactors and the role of their provider cannot be resolved separately, adding that the two matters are like different sides of the same coin.

Kong expressed his hope that the Geneva talks could be held next month, saying that the North realizes it has two choices, it can continue with negotiations via the Geneva talks or it can enter into another confrontation.

Effectiveness of Kang-Gallucci Talks Questioned

SK2504073495 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 25 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by Kang Song-po: "Is Kang Sok-chu Suitable for a 'Solution to the Nuclear Problem'?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Will the "Kang Sok-chu-Gallucci line" DPRK-U.S. talks, which the United States proposed to North Korea for settling the light-water reactor negotiations, work effectively for a solution to the problem?

It appears highly likely that the main role in the North Korean side of the U.S.-DPRK nuclear negotiations will now shift from Kim Chong-u, vice chairman of the External Economy Commission and senior delegate to the expert-level talks, to Kang Sok-chu. However, contrary to the expectations of some ROK Government officials and the U.S. side, the political positions of Kang Sok-chu and Kim Chong-u are not markedly different from each other. Accordingly, the skeptical observation by some about the Kang-Gallucci line's capacity for settling negotiations, is thus attracting people's attention.

A high-ranking official of the National Unification Board [NUB] said on 24 April that "the United States regards Kang Sok-chu as the real power holder capable of opening a breakthrough for stalemated light-water reactor negotiations. However, Kang Sok-chu's power does not exceed that of Kim Chong-u."

The official pointed out that "Since First Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-chu's area of expertise is politics and diplomacy, and Kim Chong-u, vice chairman of External Economy Commission under the Administration Council, is an economic specialist, it is inappropriate to try to compare the two along the same lines. Nevertheless, judging from recent developments, Kim Chong-u seems to have more clout."

It has been learned that during the recent expert-level talks in Berlin, Kim Chong-u indirectly suggested that he is one of the real power holders in North Korea. Frequently, throughout the talks, he would mention that since he can exercise his own discretion, higher-level negotiations would not be necessary.

Kim Chong-u is actually a cousin to Kim Il-song and is thus related to Kim Chong-il.

A relevant NUB official said that "Kim Chong-u has a very active attitude and beliefs regarding economic reform. He is in charge of the development of the Najin-Sonbong free trade zone which Kim Chong-il has pushed with emphasis. Thus, the recent brisk activities of Kim Chong-u have been noteworthy."

On the other hand, Kang Sok-chu ranks 121st in party leadership, and is known to have considerable influence over the party and the government. However, his activities, for some unknown reasons, have not been noted recently.

This being the case, some government officials emphasized that "in order for the United States to bring North Korea to the dialogue table so as to resolve the stalemated dialogue, the United States needs to abandon its lingering attachment to the Kang Sok-chu-Gallucci line, and hold even higher-level talks."

Daily Specualtes on DPRK 'Food Crisis'

SK2404044895 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 24 Apr 95 p 10

[Reporter Choe Won-ki]

[FBIS Translated Text] North Korea is expected to undergo its worst food crisis during the off-season of Tangyong from May through August this year. The food shortage, which began in 1989, seems to be reaching an extreme.

The two major factors contributing to the worsening of the North Korean food shortage are Kim Il-song's death and a poor harvest in the PRC.

Following Kim Il-song's death in July last year, Pyongyang released the rice it had stored because the North Korean authorities were worried about the possibility of the public becoming panic-stricken during the power transition if this were coupled with food shortages. However, this decision drained the stockpiled food.

To make matters worse, the PRC stopped its food assistance to North Korea. The PRC's grain production was 560 million tonnes in 1993. It decreased to 510 million tonnes in 1994, a decrease of 50 million tonnes. Therefore the PRC, having suffered from poor harvests, cannot afford to provide North Korea with free supplies of food. As a result, the Chinese food assistance to North Korea was virtually suspended from July 1994 to April 1995.

15 Aug Celebration Preparatory Committee Formed

SK2304024195 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 23 Apr 95 p 21

[By reporter Kim Min-chol]

[FBIS Translated Text] A total of 140 dissident and public organizations—including the National Alliance for Democracy and National Reunification, the General Federation of Unions of Literature and Arts of Korea, and the National Federation of General Student Councils—attended a meeting at 1530 on 22 April at the Changchon Methodist Church in Seoul to inaugurate the South's Preparatory Committee for "joint national celebrations on the 50th anniversary of national liberation." The meeting elected four standing chairmen, including Priest Kim Sang-kun.

The Preparatory Committee stated: "We will hold joint North-South celebrations on the 50th anniversary of national liberation. We will hold grand debate meetings on national reunification, walkathons, and various other events."

North, South Buddhist Leaders Meet in Beijing

SK2304023295 Seoul YONHAP in English 0154 GMT 23 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, April 22 (YONHAP)—Buddhist leaders of North and South Korea discussed celebrating jointly Gautama Buddha's birthday next month between the two Koreas in their meeting here over the weekend.

Attending the meeting were Priest Poban and two others from South Korea's Chogye Order and Chairman Chang Chae-chol and two others of North Korea's religionists council.

The South Korean Buddhist leaders handed the North Korean religious leaders a letter to Chairman Pak Tae-ho of the North Korean Buddhist Federation, proposing a joint North-South celebration of Buddha's birthday on May 7, Priest Poban told South Korean reporters after the meeting.

The proposal calls for holding the celebration either at Chogye-sa Temple in the South or at Pohyon-sa Temple in Mt. Myohyang in the North or any other temple representing the North's Buddhism according to the program agreed on between the two parties.

To this end, a working-level meeting should be held either in Beijing or in Japan not later than May 2, the priest quoted the letter as saying.

Chairman Chang said he would convey the letter to Chairman Pak upon his return to Pyongyang, Poban said.

Chang is known to be on the Supreme People's Assembly (parliament) Foreign Affairs Committee and concurrently on the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of Fatherland in North Korea.

Kim Tae-chung Criticizes Policy on N-S Visits

SK2504023695 Seoul YONHAP in English 0054 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 25 (YONHAP)—Kim Tae-chung, chairman of the Peace Foundation for the Asia-Pacific region, has criticized the government's inter-Korean exchange policy in connection with the recent unauthorized visit to the North by religious leader An Ho-sang.

Kim made the criticism at a lecture meeting Monday evening claiming the government "eventually induced the staunch anti-communist to make a secret trip to North Korea by disapproving An's application for a North Korea visit."

The former Education Minister An made an unauthorized trip to North Korea two weeks ago in his capacity as the head of Taejong-kyo, an indigenous religion that worships the national foundation father Tangun.

"The old man in his 90s formally applied to make the visit to North Korea in order to pay homage to Tangun's tomb but his application was refused by the authorities concerned," Kim asserted at the lecture meeting on national unification policy held at the Swiss Grand Hotel in Seoul.

Kim also demanded that any law which prohibits the promotion of cultural exchanges between South and North Korea must be amended.

He predicted that North Korea's Kim Chong-il is expected to assume the role of the supreme North Korean power and to formally become the state president and general secretary of the communist party between April and August of this year.

"Once the power transition of North Korea is completed, the inter-Korean summit conference will take place," he predicted.

Article Discusses DPRK's Tourism Industry

SK2504022995 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 24 Apr 95 p 6

[By reporter Kang Song-po]

[FBIS Translated Text] Typical of a country that is known to be the most closed-off country in the world, North Korea's tourism industry is very weak. North Korea's tourism facilities are not properly equipped, and moreover, since tourists are greatly limited in their activities, very few foreigners visit.

Accurate statistics have yet to be made public, but observers estimate that some 20,000 to 25,000 people visit North Korea for sightseeing annually. Most of these tourists, however, are Koreans residing in Japan and there are few, genuinely foreign, tourists.

North Korea which regarded tourism as a "sin" started to show a change in attitude in the 1980's. North Korea came to recognize that through tourism, it could gain not only foreign currency, but gain the additional benefit of propagandizing its system. According to the joint venture law announced in September 1984, tourism was included in the five main joint venture projects along with industry, construction, transportation, and science and technology. Since then, North Korea has concentrated efforts on fostering the tourist industry. Therefore, in March 1985, the Korean International Youth Tourism Company was established, and other important tourist organizations such as the State General Tourism Guidance Bureau, the Mt. Kumgang International Tourism Company, and the Korean International Travel Agency, were established as well. Also, around this time, "Tourism Departments" began to be established at industrial colleges throughout the nation.

Overseas, North Korea joined the World Tourist Organization in September 1987, and in March 1991, North Korea dispatched delegations to international conferences such as the World Tourism Exhibition. It showed an active attitude in exchanging tourism information. On 27 September 1994, on the occasion of "the day of world tourism," North Korea's Central Broadcast reported on the development trends of the tourism industry in various countries all over the world and even emphasized that this industry was next in importance after the crude oil and automobile industries.

It was learned that recently, North Korea secretly put forth the Mt. Kumgang development project and is seeking ways to introduce foreign capital through the Mt. Kumgang International Group (chairman: Pak Kyong-yun).

The reason for North Korea's belated turn toward the tourism industry and its strained efforts to lure foreigners, is due to the serious lack of foreign currency. In the early 1990's, trade settlements with the old Soviet Union and East European countries had to be balanced with hard cash. Therefore, there was a drain in dollars to pay for energy.

North Korea has reputedly earned a bad reputation in the tourism industry for its insufficient service facilities such as hotels and for the closed nature of North Korean society, and thus, has not seen good results. In particular, free-spirited foreign tourists are turned off by the monotonous tourist courses and the fact that they are forced to visit highly political sites such as the house where Kim Il-song was born.

Another main reason for the slump in the tourist industry is the lack of recreational and cultural facilities to attract large-scale tourist groups. Only some of the hotels in Pyongyang have karaoke machines and billiard rooms, and there are hardly any with discotheques, night clubs, or casinos. People who have visited North Korea say they were astounded at the lack of transportation facilities and restaurants. Therefore, North Korea concentrates on selling its tourist packages to overseas fellow countrymen who can tolerate the inconvenience without being dissatisfied.

Statistics Say DPRK Registers Trade Surplus

SK2504083495 Seoul MUNHWA ILBO in Korean 25 Apr 95 p 8

[FBIS Translated Text] North Korea recorded a trade surplus for the first time since 1981 as a result of an increase in exports and a significant decrease in imports in 1994.

According to import and export statistics prepared by the IMF, which the Korean Foreign Trade Association obtained, North Korean exports amounted to $1.191 billion from January to September 1994, registering an increase of 10.2 percent over the same period in 1993.

North Korean imports in the same period amounted to $990 million, registering a decrease of 12.4 percent over the same period in the previous year, a major contributing factor being the lack of foreign currency.

Thus, North Korea registered a trade surplus of $201 million in this period, compared with a deficit of $49 million in the same period in 1993.

North Korea registered a trade surplus for the first time since 1981 when the IMF began to obtain North Korean statistics for its import-export statistics by individual countries.

North Korea recorded a trade deficit of $503 million in 1991. As a result of a decrease in imports due to a lack of foreign currency, the deficit dropped to $2 million in 1992. North Korea's trade deficit reached $10 million [number as published] in 1993.

As the figures show, total North Korean foreign trade amounted to no more than $2.181 billion in the said period in 1994—with the drastic decrease in imports—marking a decrease of 1.4 percent over the same period of the previous year.

As for North Korean trade with its major trade partners, its exports to Japan increased by 28.7 percent to $220 million, but its imports from Japan decreased by 32.6 percent to $128 million.

North Korean exports to China decreased by 22.1 percent to $148 million, and its imports from China decreased by 32.7 percent to $348 million.

Hong Kong-Based Firm Agrees To Build in DPRK

SK2404025995 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 24 Apr 95 p 2

[Reporter Kim Song-yong from Hong Kong]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was confirmed on 23 April that Young's Trading (representative: Won Ho-yong, a Korean-American) in Hong Kong and North Korea's Korean Economic Development General Company (representative: Yi Tae-tok) met in Beijing on 17 April and agreed to build a joint-venture hotel of 100 bedrooms, with a total floor space of 9,700 square meters, on a 40,000-square-meter site in Anju-tong, Najin-Sonbong, North Korea.

U.S. Congressmen Visit on Intellectual Rights

SK2304054695 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 23 Apr 95 p 1

[By reporter Yu Min]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned that four U.S. Congressmen—including Moorehead, the Republican chairman of the Intellectual Property Rights Subcommittee of the U.S. House Judiciary Committee—secretly visited the ROK on 21 April to examine how the ROK protects intellectual property rights.

An ROK Foreign Ministry official said on 22 April: "I have learned that four U.S. Congressmen arrived in the ROK via Japan to examine the ROK's system concerning intellectual property rights and how it protects intellectual property rights." He added: "They will leave for the PRC on 23 April after carrying out fact-finding activities at the Office of Patent Administration and other pertinent government offices."

Conscious that people in the ROK denounce the United States for applying pressure as regards trade, the four Congressmen from the Intellectual Property Rights Subcommittee entered the ROK via the U.S. Air Base at Osan. They met An Kwang-ku, commissioner of the Office of Patent Administration, on the morning of 22 April and requested various materials.

Tokyo Asked To Reinforce Korea Embassy Security

SK2404054095 Seoul YONHAP in English 0505 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 24 (YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry Monday requested that the Japanese authorities reinforce the police guard around the Korean Embassy and buildings accommodating Korean businesses and Korean residents' organizations in Japan, fearing that the murder of a man, known to be a Korean residing in Japan by a powerful member of a doomsday cult could trigger other terrorist attacks by the cult's members, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Monday. [sentence as received]

The ministry also instructed the Korean Embassy in Tokyo to fully investigate the personnel records of So Yu-haeng who stabbed to death Murai Hideo, known as the No. 2 man of the Aum Shinri Kyo (supreme truth) which is suspected of the recent gas attacks to Tokyo subway trains during rush hour.

"The ministry instructed the embassy to closely follow the investigation by the Japanese police in the murder case when the embassy reported the case involving the murder of the Aum Shinri Kyo leader immediately after the murder took place," said a ministry spokesman.

Airport Toughens Japanese Travelers Inspections

SK2404060495 Seoul YONHAP in English 0541 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 24 (YONHAP)—Authorities at Kimpo International Airport on Monday [24 April] toughened inspection and vigilance on Japanese travelers following the murder of a leader of Aum Shinri Kyo, a Japanese doomsday cult, Sunday by a Korean residing in Japan.

Police, customs and immigration officers at the airport began doing close searches of luggage and passport checks on Japanese visitors for fear that followers of the doomsday cult may try to sneak into South Korea posing as sightseers.

Police are cooperating with the Japanese Embassy in Seoul exchanging information on all Japanese entering and leaving South Korea.

The police are also stepping up their security measures along with the Agency for National Security Planning, the Justice Ministry and the Customs Administration on the possible entry into the country by Japanese terrorists.

Thorough examinations by the police are underway to examine whether there are any explosives or toxic gases located in the airport.

A police officer said some 43 policemen posted at the airport are to undergo a week-long anti-terrorist training course starting Monday.

The police have also decided to purchase nine of the newest inspection machine models which can effectively detect solid or liquid explosives and hazardous gas.

Measures Studied To Attract Japanese Investment

SK2104025395 Seoul YONHAP in English 0208 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 21 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government, facing a snowballing trade deficit with Japan and the super-strong yen, is working on measures to attract Japanese corporate investment in the country.

Under the measures, the government will provide "intensive support" to Japanese companies investing in 10 promising sectors for Japanese investment in Korea, according to the Finance-Economy and International Trade-Industry Ministries Friday.

The 10 sectors being promoted for investment are automobiles, shipbuilding equipment and materials, electric parts and electronic appliances, precision machine tools, industrial machinery, environment-related equipment, agricultural machinery, office automation equipment, information and telecommunication devices and basic chemicals.

Assistance to Japanese corporations investing in these industries will include corporate tax breaks for three to five years from the initial year of profit-making and allow them to introduce short-term foreign commercial loans, ranging from 50 to 100 percent of their investment, to fund the procurement of industrial equipment and raw materials for their business operations in the country, a Finance-Economy Ministry official said.

In addition, South Korean-Japanese joint-venture businesses in these 10 sectors will be exempt from credit controls in a bid to encourage Japanese companies to promote such joint ventures, he added.

When the support measures for Japanese firms investing in the country are finalized next month, the government will send an economic mission to Japan in June to explain the measures to Japanese firms, an International Trade-Industry Ministry official said.

To prepare for the investment attraction campaign in Japan, the International Trade-Industry Ministry will make a list of Japanese companies planning to invest in South Korea, he added.

Korea-China Undersea Cable Construction Begins

SK2504045495 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 25 Apr 95 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The construction of a submarine fiber-optic cable network linking Korea and China will be launched today.

The two countries will begin to lay an undersea optical cable connecting Taean of Korea and Qingdao of China, Korea Telecom (KT) said yesterday.

The 549-km (341 miles) cable system, codenamed CKC (China-Korea Cable), will be completed in December this year.

KT President Cho Paek-che, Zjang Ligui, director general of telecommunications at China's Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, and hundreds of other telecom officials plan to attend a ceremony in Taean, South Chungchong Province, this morning, to mark the start of the CKC construction.

The CKC cable will land at the connecting point of Taean from a 5,600-ton cable-burying ship anchored about 1 km away during the ceremony.

The ship is scheduled to finish the installation of the CKC optical cable under the West Sea [Yellow Sea] a month later.

The cable will land at the connecting point of Qingdao by May 23. Then the telecom engineers of both countries will test-run the cable system until December.

Taean and Qingdao are located on the two shortest direct lines between the two countries.

To better ensure the safety of the cable system, the CKC cable will be buried about 1.5 meters under the seabed along the route.

Under a bilateral accord signed in February 1993, Seoul and Beijing is to jointly pour about 40 billion won ($47 million) into the CKC project.

Alcatel of France was chosen as the undertaker of the CKC project.

The CKC system will be equipped with about 15,120 circuits, enabling more than 80,000 people to receive telephone service simultaneously at a speed of 560 Mbps. The speed of 560 Mbps means that about 560-million-bit voice and video information can be transmitted per second.

The CKC network comprises two 560 Mbps systems and three undersea branching repeaters (BR).

The submarine optical cable system is expected to have a far-reaching effect over bilateral business relations, in particular.

Since the two nations established diplomatic ties in 1992, trade volume and personnel and information exchanges have sharply increased.

But the telecommunications infrastructure has failed to keep pace.

The existing Sino-Korean telephone connections, based on Intelsat satellites, have been widely unreliable, sometimes causing important business deals to misfire.

Congestion has also frequently occurred due to the limited satellite capacity.

"Korea and China will move one step toward the era of borderless telecommunications as the CKC networks will be extended to major Chinese cities, including Beijing and Shanghai," said a KT spokesman.

Iran Agrees on All Outstanding Export Accounts

SK2204090995 Seoul YONHAP in English 0848 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 22 (YONHAP)—South Korea has reached an agreement with Iran on the redemption of all its outstanding export accounts with the Middle East country.

According to the International Trade and Industry Ministry Saturday, 103 South Korean export firms have recently concluded negotiations with Iran's Central Bank on the refunding of 33 million U.S. dollars in outstanding export accounts.

Iran will repay receivable accounts of less than 500,000 dollars by May 20 on a lump sum basis, those of up to 1 million dollars on an installment basis over 12 months, and those exceeding 1 million dollars on an installment basis over 30 months.

Due to her aggravating foreign exchange situation, Iran has yet to redeem to South Korea some 493 million dollars in export accounts receivable. Iran made arrangements for redeeming 460 million dollars of the sum in May last year.

Further on Repayment Agreement

SK2304060495 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 23 Apr 95 p 18

[By reporter Yi Yong-taek]

[FBIS Translated Text] The ROK Trade and Industry Ministry revealed on 22 April that 103 ROK exporters and the Central Bank of Iran had agreed that the Iranian bank would pay $33 million in unpaid bills for exports to Iran.

Iran agreed to pay a total of $8 million to the Ihwa Corporation and 10 other companies, each of which Iran owes $500,000 to $1 million. The payments will be made in monthly installments beginning in May and concluding a year later.

Iran also agreed to pay $15 million to Kabool Textile Company and six other companies, each of which Iran owes over $1 million. The payments will be made in monthly installments beginning in May and concluding 30 months later.

Government, UK Sign Accord on Transportation

SK2404102895 Seoul YONHAP in English 0815 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 24 (YONHAP)—The British Embassy announced the signing Monday of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Britain and South Korea on cooperation in the transportation sector.

Brian Mawhinney, British secretary of state for transport, and his South Korean counterpart O Myong, the minister of construction and transportation, inked the MOU at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel in downtown Seoul.

In an opening speech for a seminar jointly organized by the Ministry of Political Affairs and the British and Japanese Embassies concerning autonomous governments at the Sejong Cultural Center, Mawhinney commented on the bilateral pact.

"This historical document is one on which we both expect to build, to our mutual advantage, in the coming years," he declared.

Mawhinney is the third British minister to visit Seoul since President Kim Yong-sam's visit to London in March, reflecting both governments' determination to build on the success of the president's visit to bolster the ties between the two countries, the embassy stated.

For the rest of his visit, the secretary of state will open a Korea-UK seminar jointly organized by the Korean Transport Institute, meet with government officials and pay courtesy calls on several businesses, including Halla Group, Korea National Railways and Korean Air (KAL). He will return to London on Wednesday.

Draft Revision of Food Safety Legislation Viewed

SK2004235795 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Apr 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government will take administrative measures against the importers of foreign foods which do not meet local food safety standards from early next year.

The measures are among the draft revision of the food safety legislation which the Ministry of Health and

Welfare has worked out to step up sanitary surveillance of foreign foods in circulation here.

The government measures came at a time when the imports of foreign foods sharply increased here under the agreement of the Uruguay Round.

Under the draft revisions, foods importers who violated the domestic food safety regulations will face administrative measures ranging from suspension of import of the item in question to business cancellation.

The ministry will also allow local food makers to produce and market new products without government approval starting early next year in an effort to strengthen the competitiveness of domestic foods makers.

But, to make up with the eased restrictions on domestic food makers, legal punishment of makers and distributors of harmful foods will be reinforced.

In the most heavy penalty, business permission will be canceled against the producers of foods containing such harmful or poisonous substance as pesticide.

Under the revised draft, the ministry will hand over the control of limiting after-midnight operation of entertainment establishments to local governments. Beginning early next year, local governors will take the control of business hour of entertainment establishments under their jurisdiction.

The ministry will come up with a finalized revision by August this year and present it to the National Assembly for approval in autumn.

Antidumping Duties Imposed on Zinc Ingot Imports

SK2504064495 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 25 Apr 95 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ministry of Finance and Economy has decided to impose preliminary antidumping duties ranging from 20.4 percent to 27 percent on zinc ingots imported from China, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan for four months from May 1, the ministry said yesterday.

The decision was made in response to a charge filed by Korea Zinc Co. last November that zinc ingots had been imported from these countries at far lower prices than domestic price levels, it said.

A preliminary ministry investigation confirmed the dumping charge and the ministry will levy antidumping tariffs to protect domestic producers of zinc ingots during a full-scale ministry probe scheduled to last till July 3, a ministry spokesman said.

Antidumping duties of 20.4 percent will be slapped on zinc ingots from China, 25.6 percent on those from Kazakhstan and 27 percent on those from Uzbekistan, he said.

Currently, 5 percent tariffs are imposed on zinc ingots classified as items that are imported without prior government approval.

Additional Foreign Workers Allowed Into Country

SK2504065295 Seoul YONHAP in English 0605 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 25 (YONHAP)—About 12,000-18,000 additional foreign workers will soon be allowed entry to South Korea under the "industrial trainee" system, the International Trade and Industry Ministry said Tuesday.

The ministry said that in an effort to solve the manpower shortage problems small and medium-sized businesses are experiencing it plans to allow additional foreign workers to enter the country.

The ministry will ask the Korean Federation of Small Business (KFSB) to examine the manpower situation of small businesses and their demands for foreign workers.

The KFSB has been authorized to import, distribute and manage the foreign workers here under the "industrial trainee" system, which allows foreign workers to legally work at Korean small businesses.

The businesses eligible for the foreign workers' program will be those which are suffering more than the 5 percent manpower shortage rate. But food, cigarettes, publishing and copying businesses will not be eligible to use foreign workers.

Small business which would like to be involved in the foreign workers program should send applications to the KFSB between April 27 and May 17, the ministry said.

A ministry official said, "the Finance and Economy Ministry, Justice Ministry and Labor Ministry discussed the matter with one another to decided on further imports of industrial trainees."

Currently, about 23,000 foreign workers are employed by small businesses here as industrial trainees.

Seoul Agrees To Boost Business With Sri Lanka

SK2204101095 Seoul YONHAP in English 0956 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 22 (YONHAP)—South Korea has agreed with Sri Lanka to make joint efforts for significantly boosting bilateral business links with a goal of doubling their trade to the level of 700 million U.S. dollars by the year 2000.

The accord was reached between Sri Lankan authorities and a South Korean economic mission, led by Vice International Trade and Industry Minister Pak Un-so, that visited Colombo from April 18-22, ministry officials said Saturday.

The mission asked the Sri Lankan Government for improved investment environment for South Korean firms venturing into Sri Lanka and expanded South Korean participation in infrastructure projects.

Sri Lanka promised to study South Korean proposals for the establishment of a Joint Private Trade and Economy Committee, expediting South Korean firms' employment of local manpower, and providing investment incentives to South Korean businesses, the officials said.

Preelection Opposition Party Merger 'Impossible'

SK2404011895 Seoul YONHAP in English 0057 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 24 (YONHAP)—Political negotiations between the main opposition Democratic Party (DP) and the splinter New People's Party (NPP) to put the final touches to a bilateral merger announced last week have hit a snag due to conflicting views regarding the issue of registering the party leadership with the Central Election Management Commission (CEMC).

Both parties were scheduled to hold the first meeting of a merger promotion committee Monday [24 April] but decided to postpone the session indefinitely due to their differences concerning the leadership issue.

DP President Yi Ki-taek said Monday that he himself should be the sole legal representative to be registered with CEMC although he is ready to share the right to "politically represent" the party with the NPP Chairman Kim Pok-tong.

Yi told reporters at his home that the projected new party cannot effectively hold the local polls in June under the joint representative leadership system. "How can we go through the local elections smoothly when both leaders are split over nominating thousands of candidates running in the polls," he claimed.

He emphasized that the merger of the two parties will be virtually impossible before the June local elections if the NPP continues to demand the registration of co-representatives with the CEMC.

Former Premier Denies Mayoral Election Candidacy

SK2204113895 Seoul YONHAP in English 1113 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 22 (YONHAP)—Former Prime Minister Chong Won-sik denied reports Saturday that the ruling Democratic Liberal Party may recruit him as its candidate for the Seoul mayoral post, saying, "As I've said whenever the occasion presented itself, I've no intention to run in the Seoul mayoral election."

Upon arriving at Kimpo Intentional Airport from a tour of the United States at the invitation of the Rand Research Institute, Chong told reporters, "The Seoul mayor's workload is so heavy that a young man who can handle it is appropriate for the post. In that respect, I'm not suitable for it."

Asked about some reports that the government party has tentatively decided on him as its candidate for Seoul mayor in the coming local elections, he replied, "I haven't heard of it at all. Neither can it be the case."

As Chong returned home one week earlier than originally scheduled by cutting short of his visit to Hawaii, however, the chances cannot totally be ruled out for him to be picked up as the government party's candidate for the Seoul mayoral post.

When asked what he would do if the ruling party made another proposal to him with respect to the candidacy, he made a suggestive response saying, "I don't think they will approach me on that matter, nor do I think I'm fit for the post."

'Meddling' by Former Opposition Leader Alleged

SK2404102495 Seoul YONHAP in English 0718 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 24 (YONHAP)—The ruling and opposition parties wrangled Monday over former opposition leader Kim Tae-chung's meddling with Rep. Han Hwa-kap decision to step out of the gubernatorial race and off of the Democratic Party's (DP) ticket in the upcoming South Cholla elections.

Kim's former Secretary Rep. Han told a press conference held at Mudungsan Tourist Hotel in Kwangju Monday morning, "I quit the gubernatorial candidacy race, accepting the advice of Kim Tae-chung that I should conduct more politics in the central arena."

Ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) spokesman Rep. Pak Pom-chin charged "Kim Tae-chung has again gone back on his word that he won't meddle in the selection of DP candidates, but will render support as a party member after candidates have been chosen."

"If a so-called statesman repeatedly acts contrary to his utterances this way, how could the people trust politics?" he wondered, adding, "It would be more honest for him to clarify if he has resigned from politics or is coming back to politics."

DP spokesman Rep. Pak Chi-won retorted, "Kim took the action in response to the public's concern that South Cholla Province could be split in two by the opposition party's candidacy competition."

"This distinctly differs from the government party which has named former secretaries (of the party president) as candidates for the Pusan mayoral and South Kyongsang gubernatorial posts," Pak added.

Kim Yong-sam Stresses Administrative Deregulation

SK2404030395 Seoul YONHAP in English 0233 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 24 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam emphasized Monday [24 April] that the government will boldly push ahead with deregulation.

In an address to the "100 PPM Quality Renovation Rally" held Monday morning at the Education and Cultural Center in Yangjae-tong, southern Seoul, the chief executive said, "The government will boldly abolish administrative regulations restricting enterprise activities and continuously improve the environment to facilitate foreign investments in the country."

In an effort to reduce the nation's trade deficits Kim disclosed that positive measures are being worked out to help develop the machinery and parts industries.

Comprehensive steps to develop those industries will be taken up at a meeting for promoting "a new economy" to be held at the Chongwadae presidential office in mid-May.

Stressing concerted efforts for strengthening the country's competitive edge in the world market, the head of state called upon management to "further endeavor to promote the workers' welfare," and for labor to "try harder to boost productivity."

Kim said another avenue to achieve quality renovations is for larger and smaller enterprises to cooperate more closely with each other, adding that the government will place its priorities with reinforcing the competitiveness of smaller businesses.

"The quality renovation movement should evolve into a technological development drive designed to produce the world's top quality commodities, eliminate the production of poor quality products, and also to start a productivity boosting drive," the president said.

"Our country must catch up with the front-runner of industrialized countries while keeping ahead of a strenuous pursuit by late-comer developing countries," he added.

President Orders Reforms in Legal Education

SK2504083595 Seoul YONHAP in English 0736 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 25 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam on Tuesday instructed the administration to put into effect "an epoch-making reform" into the legal education system.

Presiding over the April globalization promotion meeting held at Chongwadae the chief executive ordered them to, "prepare a reform formula under the principle of making a major reform basically changing the legal education system."

Prime Minister Yi Hong-ku, related cabinet ministers and members of the Globalization Promotion Committee attended the meeting.

The president issued the instruction noting that an increase in the number of judicial officials passing the state examinations alone is not sufficient enough solution to resolve the problems found in judiciary circles.

The Globalization Promotion Committee and the Supreme Court presented to the meeting a legal service improvement plan calling for an increase in the number of successful candidates in the state's judiciary examinations, from the current 300 a year to 500 next year, increasing 100 annually until reaching the 800 level in 1999.

The legal education system reform formula is to be completed by July.

The judiciary service improvement plan also calls for turning out between 1,000 to 2,000 judiciary officials a year after a new legal education system is introduced.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Blasts 'Distorted' Reports on Polls

BK2404053095 Kuala Lumpur THE STAR in English 23 Apr 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Alor Setar—Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed yesterday ticked off the ABC [Australian Broadcasting Corporation] television network for giving distorted reports of the general election in Malaysia. [sentence as published]

The prime minister, who was visibly upset, told a four-member ABC television crew here yesterday to keep off Malaysian affairs when he was approached for an interview.

A woman journalist with the crew approached Dr. Mahathir after a ceramah [lecture] in Sek Kebangsaan [National School] Sungai Limau in Yan and asked what the outcome of the polls would be.

Dr. Mahathir replied: "We will win, but ABC won't report what we [are] going to say."

When the journalist said they would, Dr. Mahathir told them: "You can say what you like, but ABC will not report the truth."

The journalist followed up with another question on the outcome of the election to which the prime minister said: "We will win, but that is not ABC's business. Keep off our country."

In his speech, Dr. Mahathir told about 4,000 people to be wise in making their decision on April 25.

Criticizes Magazine Report

BK2504070695 Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 21 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Hambali Latiff, Kamal Ahmad, and Noor Jaafar]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuala Terengganu, Thursday [20 April]—Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has guaranteed the people that Malaysia can become a developed country without sacrificing its moral and Islamic values. [passage omitted]

Commenting on a report in the latest issue of NEWSWEEK magazine criticizing the 88-story Kuala Lumpur City Center (KLCC) building, Dr. Mahathir denied the allegation that it was a waste of money and that the implementation of the project was undemocratic.

According to the magazine, the project should not have been implemented because the funds could have been used for training programs for the people.

NEWSWEEK also reported that the KLCC is the tallest building in Asia, whereas it has been recognized as the tallest building in the world. It is taller than the Empire State Building in New York and the Sears Tower in Chicago.

Mahathir explained it was true that the KLCC project was implemented by the government, but it never neglects training for the people; 20 percent of the state budget has been allocated for skills training and education.

He said that the Western media recognize Malaysia's achievements, but hate to see the country's success and prosperity. This is especially so because it is under Muslim leadership.

Opposition Leader Not To Rejoin Barisan

BK2404064795 Kuala Lumpur THE STAR in English 24 Apr 95 p 7

[Report by Philip Golingai]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kota Kinabalu—Party Bersatu Sabah [Sabah United Party, PBS] president Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan said the party was not going back to the Barisan Nasional [National Front] after the general election.

"At this point in time, as long as the people say don't go in, we won't go in," he told reporters at the airport yesterday after campaigning in Sandakan and Tawau.

He said there was no need for PBS to make a public pledge that the party would not rejoin Barisan.

Pairin was commenting on Sabah DAP [Democratic Action Party] deputy chairman Oswald Mojingol's challenge to him to issue a declaration that PBS had no intention of rejoining the Barisan.

On the allegation by Akar Bersatu [United People's Justice Movement] deputy president Datuk Dr Jeffrey Kitingan that he (Pairin) had forced PBS candidates to sign a declaration that they would vacate their seats within 14 days if they defected, he said: "How does he know?"

He said the decision of PBS candidates to sign the declaration was based on proper understanding of the situation and acceptance of the system.

"Therefore, whatever is signed has been done freely and willingly and with full knowledge of the consequences," he said.

A full page advertisement carrying the declaration in Bahasa Malaysia [Malay language] and English was published in local newspapers here on Wednesday.

PBS is contesting all 20 seats in Sabah and the sole Labuan seat.

Singapore

Editorial on Terrorism, Criticizes Clinton

BK2204090395 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 21 Apr 95 p 16

[Editorial: "Getting tough with terrorists"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The horrific outrage in Oklahoma is a shocking reminder that the threat of terrorism is ever-present and that a tough line is the only way to deal with it. In the past few weeks, terrorism—political, religious or ideological—has been back in the headlines. First was the horror of the gas attack in the Japanese subway. Then the blowing up of two Sri Lankan gunboats. Meanwhile, in Northern Ireland, talks that could resolve the 25-year-old conflict are deadlocked, over the refusal of the IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, to make some concession towards disarming. The patriotic passions that presumably link these tragedies, past, present and probably future, are sincerely held, despite being carried to abhorrent extremes. The murderers draw encouragement from supporters who, while they would shrink from pulling a trigger, cheer naively from the safety of the touchline.

The outrage in Oklahoma should focus US President Bill Clinton's mind on the possible consequences of his rash policy on a distant but related place—Northern Ireland. If terrorism should flare again there—as well it might—he would have good reason to lament the day he sought to intervene in the affairs of a foreign country to placate the romantic Irish-American lobby. Sinn Fein is a small minority in Irish politics. Yet some of its people, upon whom President Clinton has conferred respectability and even White House hospitality, saw fit to allow money collected in America to be used by the IRA to buy an estimated 10 tonnes of explosives.

Correctly, the British government has refused to negotiate at ministerial level while the implied threat of renewed violence is present. All the other parties have made concessions and London has already withdrawn substantial numbers of peace-keeping troops from Ireland. But Sinn Fein has conceded nothing. It is clear that if Sinn Fein has been encouraged in the delusion that if it does not get everything it wants—which is a united, socialist island of Ireland—an atrocity to rival Oklahoma is in prospect for the British mainland.

The point about terrorists, extremists, activists—call them what you will, they all have murder in mind—is that they reject the will of the people. Having no hope of winning in the ballot or legitimately influencing public opinion to their cause, they resort to violence. The prospect of being governed by people who have bombed their way into office, demonstrating contempt for democracy and the rule of law, should surely disqualify terrorists from serious consideration by the very people they hope to control. In formulating his response to the Oklahoma outrage, Mr Clinton should reflect on the harm that his lamentable attempt to make peace in Ireland might do. Indeed, now that terrorism has, literally, hit home, the president must take a tough line with terrorists everywhere—and stick to it.

Government Contributes to KEDO

BK2204110495 Singapore Radio Corporation of Singapore in English 1000 GMT 21 apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Singapore Government has contributed U.S.$300,000 to the Korean Peninsular Energy Development Organization [KEDO]. The Foreign Ministry [MAF] says the move is in response to a request by the U.S., Japan, and South Korea. The three nations set up the group to provide alternative energy supplies to North Korea. It is to carry out the U.S.-North Korea agreement aimed at maintaining stability in the Korean peninsula and reducing the chances of nuclear proliferation in the region. The MAF says Singapore is confident that the success for implementation of the agreement will help restore stability to the Asia-Pacific region.

Spratlys Dispute Seen as 'Test' for ARF

BK2204142095 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 21 Apr 95 p 32

[Article by Asad Latif under the rubric "Eye on the World": "Handling of Spratlys dispute a test for ARF"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is no exaggeration to say that the handling of the Spratlys dispute may determine the credibility of the Asean Regional Forum (ARF). It may also be instructive for Asean itself.

Among the six parties to the dispute—Brunei, China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam—all are ARF members except Taiwan. Three of them—the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei—are members of Asean.

With Vietnam's imminent entry into the organisation, that number will go up to four, leaving China and Taiwan as the two non-Asean claimants to the isles, reefs and atolls in the South China Sea.

The point goes beyond numbers, however. There cannot be much point in having a regional grouping devoted to improving security if it does not have a credit answer to the single most likely threat to East Asian security today, apart from the situation in the Korean peninsula.

Preventive diplomacy and regional confidence-building are crucial means with which to temper the uncertainties created by the end of the Cold War.

By providing a multilateral framework for dialogue and consultation, the ARF helps to fulfill this role in Pacific Asia, whose economic rise will be influenced greatly by whether peace and stability can be assured for long periods.

Indeed, when they met last July, its members endorse Asean's Treaty of Amity and Co-operation as a code of conduct for governing relation between states.

The direction in which the Spratlys dispute is moving, questions the objectives and hopes inherent in the ARF project.

The Chinese build-up, consisting of both structures and vessels, in Mischief Reef claimed by the Philippines has increased tension in the area. Manila has increased its forces and destroyed Chinese markers there.

Whatever China's reasons for its strategic moves, its attitude to the diplomatic resolution of the dispute does not enhance its image in the region.

At the vice-ministerial China-Asean talks in Hangzhou earlier this month, it reiterated its opposition to multilateral discussions, insisting that matters relating to the dispute should be handled bilaterally, as should its proposals on the area's joint development. The talks failed to produce a plan to resolve differences.

This resistance to a multilateral solution is in effect a refusal to countenance the ARF playing a meaningful role. For China, a leading member of the ARF, to adopt this position is problematic to say the least.

But it is unlikely that matters will rest there. Following a meeting of Asean Foreign Ministers in Singapore last month—at which they called on the claimants to respect the 1992 Manila Declaration on a peaceful resolution of differences—it was disclosed that the Spratlys would be discussed at the ARF meeting in Brunei next month.

Now, to put the matter in terms of blunt realpolitik, China's diplomatic strategy is neither unprecedented nor absurd. Militarily, it is the strongest of the contenders to the Spratlys. None of the other parties can hope realistically to dislodge it by force. And a coalition of the others against China is unlikely because the others are contenders, too, and of disparate strength. America's cautious, if not hands-off, approach to the dispute is another factor in China's favour.

That being the case, it makes sense for Beijing to insist on bilateral talks, at which it can deal with the other side more forcefully than if it had to deal with the other parties together. There is nothing new in this.

Countries prefer bilateralism if they think that they can extract more gains from the other party. Multilateralism may not offer the same opportunities to the stronger side. So, if having its way in the Spratlys is all that matters, Chinese strategy is unsurprising.

But the islands are, of course, not all there is to the country's strategy. Its regional position and expected role are larger issues for China, as is its stake in the peace and stability of East Asia. Instability in its immediate security and economic environment cannot be good for it.

In this context, just how important can a unilateral gain in the Spratlys be for China?

By contrast, the dispute offers it an opportunity to exhibit its goodwill towards the rest of East Asia. Entering multilateral discussions would enhance China's regional position in the long term, with far greater benefits than a victory on its own terms in the Spratlys, the reality of whose fabled oil wealth is, incidentally, yet to be proved.

Be that as it may, the issue does represent a test for the fledgling ARF. All eyes will be on how the Brunei meeting goes, which is to say how Asean and China, in particular, make it go.

Singapore, Thailand Top Investors in Burma

BK2504051095 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 21 Apr 95 p 46

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand and Singapore are the two most active investors in Myanmar [Burma], although Britain and France have committed more in dollar terms because of a number of large oil and gas exploration projects.

Latest figures from the Myanmar Investment Commission show that as at mid-March, 25 projects with committed investment of US$398.91 million (S$ [Singapore dollars] 558. million) from Thailand have been approved.

Singapore has 23 project worth US$293.35 million while the United Kingdom has 10 worth US$632.21 million and France has one project worth a whopping US$465 million.

Announcing the figures at a seminar in Singapore yesterday, the commission's joint secretary, Daw Khine Khine, noted that Britain's figure includes a couple of large oil and gas projects by companies registered in British territories in the Caribbean. Hence, Thailand and Singapore are still the key investors in Myanmar.

Oil and gas projects account for more than half of the value of investment commitments in Myanmar to date, with one notable project being the development of its vast offshore gas fields by a consortium including subsidiaries of Total of France and Unocal Corp of the United States.

Most of Singapore's investments are in the hotels, fisheries and manufacturing sectors.

Two hotels, Hotel Properties Ltd's Nawarat and Singapore Technologies' Summit Parkview, are already operational while two more by Straits Steamship Land and Shangri-La are currently under construction.

And Singapore's interests look set to increase, said Trade Development Board (TDB) international operations director Tay Thiam Peng.

He announced that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' US$3 million Myanmar Technical Assistance Fund is now granting funds to several agricultural projects.

The TDB itself, having already organised three business missions to Myanmar this year, will lead another group of Singapore companies to a construction expo in June, he added.

In the finance sector, Singapore's Big Four local banks [Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation, Development Bank of Singapore, United Overseas Bank, and Overseas Union Bank] and Keppel Bank have been setting up representative offices in Yangon [Rangoon].

Recent reports have said they are likely to help get Myanmar's fledgling market system on the road by extending a five-year syndicated loan to a Singapore company, Asia Pacific Breweries, for its US$30 million joint-venture brewery there.

On the Myanmar economic climate, Daw Khine Khine said the economy grew by 6.4 per cent last year, and is targeted to grow by 7.7 per cent this year.

Despite this strong growth, inflation also appears to be stabilising after hitting a high of 31.8 per cent in 1993. From 24.1 per cent last year, it fell slightly to 22 per cent in the first quarter of this year, she said.

More than 100 Singapore businessmen and lawyers attended yesterday's seminar on Myanmar's commercial and investment laws, which was organised jointly by the TDB and the Law Society of Singapore.

Indonesia

Officials on Visit by U.S. Special Envoy

BK2504061295 Jakarta SUARA KARYA in Indonesian 22 Apr 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Jakarta (SUARA KARYA)—Theo Sambuaga, chairman of theparliamentary Cooperation Board of the House of Representatives [DPR], has questioned the visit of Assistant Secretary of State John Shattuck, a U.S. special envoy, to Indonesia to conduct an investigation into the implementation of human rights in the country. "We would not welcome him if he had the intention to so during his visit," Sambuaga told reporters at the DPR on Friday.

Sadzili, vice chairman of Parliamentary Commission I [dealing with foreign affairs, defense and security, and information], said that it was not ethical for Shattuck to conduct an investigation during his visit to Indonesia.

As reported by the press, Shattuck came to Indonesia and held meetings with several officials, including the attorney general, to obtain information on the implementation of human rights as input for the U.S. human rights report which is disseminated annually.

Sambuaga said certainly the Indonesian Government would not welcome his visit if it was investigative in nature. "On what basis and on whose mandate did the United States conduct the investigation on the implementation of the human rights and development?" Sambuaga asked.

But, he said, it would be a common thing to happen if the visit was just for an exchange of views as it used to be between two friendly countries. "Indonesia is open to an exchange of views on each other's experience in carrying out development and for stepped up cooperation. We are also willing to exchange views on human rights issues with any country, including the United States," he said.

Sambuaga said that officials from friendly countries should watch the context of their discussions with one another, but the issues should be open for dialogue. "We should not remain suspicious of one another, " he said.

Not ethical

Sadzili, who represents the Functional Group faction in parliament, said the U.S. special envoy's way of conducting an investigation into the implementation of human rights in Indonesia for the U.S. annual report on human rights was not ethical.

For example, he asked if the implementation of human rights in the United States was proper regarding the issues of the Indians, the protection provided for black and other colored-skin people, and women. "The United States should pay for what they did to the people in the countries that they once colonized. This is because the United States belonged to the Indians in the past and not to the black-skinned people," he said.

He said that Indonesia will continue to promote the implementation of human rights and the freedom of the press in accordance with the existing laws and the system of values in Indonesia.

Resistance Welcomes Butrus-Ghali's View on East Timor

LD2404213995 Lisbon RDP Antena 1 Radio Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Butrus-Ghali is on an official visit to Indonesia. He told the local press that the issue of East Timor is a problem between Portugal and Indonesia. Let us hear more about it from Helena Maria:

[Maria] The statement that Butrus-Ghali made in Jakarta a few hours ago, in which he says that the issue of East Timor is a problem between Portugal and Indonesia, may change the future of that territory. That is what the leader of the East Timorese resistance in Lisbon, Roque Rodrigues, says:

[Begin Rodrigues recording] I am very happy with the contents of the statement made by the UN secretary general, particularly when he says that the East Timor conflict is a conflict between Indonesia and Portugal.

The UN secretary general's statement, made in Jakarta, becomes even more symbolic because it was made there, it becomes more significant because it was made in the capital of the country that is occupying East Timor.

[Maria] Does the statement by the UN secretary general thus internationalize the problem of East Timor?

[Rodrigues] It is now very clear that the East Timor conflict is not an internal Indonesian conflict. Indonesia is acting in defiance of international law and this legality has to be restored. [end recording] [passage omitted]

UN Backs Suharto Proposal for Former Yugoslavia

BK2504021895 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The United Nations will follow up President Suharto's initiatives on the settlement of the conflict in former Yugoslav states. The United Nations will hold subsequent contacts with the Indonesian Government on the matter. Speaking at a news conference after attending a commemorative function marking the 40th anniversary of the Afro-Asian Conference in Bandung, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said that special UN envoys Thorvar Stoltenberg and Yasushi Akashi had been instructed to seek more information from Indonesia to support the Indonesian initiatives. Butrus-Ghali regarded President Suharto's initiatives as very important for efforts to settle various problems in that region.

On Indonesian-Portuguese talks on East Timor, Butrus-Ghali said that the two sides should continue constructive talks to settle the matter.

Suharto Peace Plan Welcomed by States

BK2504122695 Jakarta REPUBLIKA in Indonesian 25 Apr 95 p 16

[FBIS Translated Text] Bandung—Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic has welcomed Indonesia's proposal to settle the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. According to Nana Sutresna, chief executive officer of the Nonaligned Movement, the former Yugoslav states have generally described the Indonesian proposal as a "positive and realistic approach."

Even Yugoslavia, which is now made up of Serbia and Montenegro, has supported the Indonesian proposal. Nana held talks with President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade some time ago. When asked whether Milosevic welcomed the Indonesian proposal, Nana answered briefly but affirmatively: "Yes."

The Bosnian Serbs supported by Yugoslavia have been the strongest opponents of the sovereignty of the former Yugoslav states, especially Bosnia-Herzegovina. This group, mainly supported by Russia, is continuing to terrorize the Bosnian Muslims who stand in the way of their idea of a "Greater Serbia."

According to Nana, who visited the former Yugoslav states and Russia as President Suharto's special envoy, the Indonesian initiatives have been welcomed.

They have also made a number of proposals to Indonesia. "We are accommodating all proposals and will follow them up," Nana told REPUBLIKA yesterday on the sidelines of a function marking the 40th anniversary of the Afro-Asian Conference at the Merdeka Building in Bandung.

President Suharto disclosed Indonesia's concept for the settlement of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia on his way home from Croatia and Sarajevo in the middle of March. Immediately afterward, the president sent a special envoy to the former Yugoslav states.

According to Indonesia, the problems in the former Yugoslav states can only be settled by their own leaders. The settlement of the conflict there should begin with international recognition of the sovereignty and borders of each former state. Finally, the issue of minorities must receive serious attention, irrespective of any final settlement.

Indonesia has also raised the possibility of the former Yugoslav states forming a confederation or an ASEAN-type regional cooperation forum. If the former Yugoslav states reach a consensus, an international conference should be held to confirm their consensus. The president told the UN secretary general last Saturday (22 April) that Indonesia has no ambition to become a mediator but is ready to act as a facilitator.

The UN secretary general expressed his deep appreciation for the Indonesian initiatives. The UN secretary general reminded the president that the handling of the problems in the former Yugoslav states requires perseverance and patience because the problems are really complex. At present, all parties seem to be strengthening their respective bargaining positions.

Suharto Marks Anniversary of Bandung Conference

BK2504091595 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 2102 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bandung, 24 Apr (ANTARA)—President Suharto has said that the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] should not simply be an onlooker and allow itself to be isolated amid the current historic changes.

"Our movement is a political coalition of more sovereign nations than any other group in history. Accordingly, we should not simply be onlookers and allow ourselves to be isolated amid the current historic changes," the president said during a speech marking the 40th anniversary of the Afro-Asian Conference in Bandung on Monday.

President Suharto, also the NAM chairman, said the movement has thus decided to adjust itself dynamically to the current changes by setting new priorities and restructuring old priorities.

"We can no longer simply voice our bitterness and anxiety; we must be prepared to place the movement's agenda into the mainstream of global thinking and action," the head of state said.

The Afro-Asian Conference commemorative function is being attended by UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and the foreign ministers of a number of NAM members.

The Afro-Asian Conference in Bandung from 18 to 24 April 1955, attended by representatives from 29 Asian and African countries, set the stage for the birth of the NAM, which currently has 112 member countries.

After delivering his speech, President Suharto officially opened a ministerial meeting of the NAM Coordinating Bureau that will end on Thursday (27 April).

The NAM Coordinating Bureau will discuss matters to be taken up at the 11th NAM Summit in Cartagena, Colombia from 18 to 20 October.

The NAM Coordinating Bureau meeting will be followed by an extraordinary meeting of the NAM foreign ministers to discuss a joint declaration on the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the development agenda, and the restructuring of the United Nations.

The NAM urged all NAM members to restore the confidence of outsiders in the NAM as well as strengthen the movement's unity and purify its objectives.

According to the president, the NAM should not simply voice complaints but also try to hold constructive dialogue and cooperate with developed countries in various fields.

The president asked the NAM member countries to adhere consistently to the example set by the Afro-Asian Conference leaders.

The president called on the NAM member countries to emulate the example set by the Afro-Asian Conference leaders, which has guided and inspired the NAM to undertake various initiatives and efforts to achieve peace and settle conflicts in various parts of the world.

"Their example has guided and inspired our movement to undertake various initiatives and efforts to achieve peace in the former Yugoslavia, Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, and Africa over the past few years," the president said.

Pending Problems [subhead]

On this occasion, the head of state noted that many problems raised during the Afro-Asian Conference in Bandung have yet to be overcome despite years of effort by Asian and African leaders and the NAM.

"The cherished peace has yet to be achieved. In various parts of the world, great numbers of people are dying in conflicts that cannot be settled through talks or other peaceful means," the president said.

The head of state noted that millions of people in developing countries continue to live in poverty, indifference, and backwardness due to unfair and unbalanced international economic relations.

According to the president, the commodities trade—a topic of discussion that was enshrined in several final documents of the Afro-Asian Conference—has continued to destroy the economies of many developing countries.

Accordingly, President Suharto urged the NAM to remain dynamic and able to adjust to the current era.

"Our movement should not be static, let alone regressive. Our movement must continue to grow and develop within the framework of the principles and objectives of the Afro-Asian Conference, which were formulated 40 years ago," the president said.

Dailies View Anniversary

BK2504123095 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 24 Apr 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Listeners: SUARA KARYA says the celebrations to mark the Asian-African Conference at Bandung's Merdeka Building today carry historical significance because the conference indirectly contributed toward the global process. The strategic significance of the event is also being marked by the opening of a ministerial meeting of the Nonaligned Movement's Coordinating Bureau, which will prepare the agenda for the movement's 11th Summit in Colombia in October and discuss the movement's stand on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations in September.

On the same topic, ANGKATAN BERSENJATA discusses the role of the Asian-African Conference 40 years ago in motivating nations to become independent and join the United Nations. Before the 1955 conference, the United Nations had only 51 members; now it has 182 members. Other important effects of the Asian-African Conference include the peaceful coexistence of countries with different systems of government, respect for other countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity, noninterference in other countries' internal affairs, and not resorting to force against other countries' territory. ANGKATAN BERSENJATA also cites the Nonaligned Movement's moral force, which managed to avert war between the two superpowers.

PELITA describes the celebrations to mark the Asian-African Conference and the opening of the Nonaligned Movement's ministerial meeting as two related events because they strengthen our common determination to create a fair, peaceful, and prosperous world order. The daily also believes that the Asian-African Conference laid the foundations for the struggle toward a more fair new world order. This struggle was not very successful during the Cold War era, but is making significant progress since the collapse of communism under the auspices of the Nonaligned Movement.

PIKIRAN RAKYAT says the strength of the Asian-African Conference's spirit is clear in the context of developing the unity and integrity of developing countries. The Bandung spirit is still relevant for developing countries. Therefore, it is understandable if UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali praises Indonesia's increasing role in the Nonaligned Movement, especially the country's humanitarian diplomacy.

Philippines

Change Seen in Post-Romulo Economic Policy

BK2404162295 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 19 Apr 95 pp 1, 11

[Article by Amando Doronila under the rubric "Analysis": "Romulo Exit Signals Shift in RP (Republic of the Philippines) Economic Diplomacy"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The departure of Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo from the Ramos Cabinet signals the adjustment of the administration's "economic policy" to give it a "human face."

This adjustment implicitly admits that in the relentless pursuit of the Philippines 2000 plan, the project of sustained economic growth is galloping far ahead of social concerns.

The Flor Contemplacion hanging forced this gap to the surface, creating a diplomatic crisis with Singapore and a political crisis for the Ramos government in the midst of the May election.

The crisis have shocked the government. They have forced it to sit back and pause. President Ramos is forced to recognize that economic growth has a fragile base if the social and human dimension is neglected. His economic diplomacy has been indicted by the Contemplacion case and is undergoing public trial by the people.

Romulo was relieved as a signal that the priorities of "economic diplomacy" are being revised. He was a key player in the architecture of the new diplomacy whose main thrusts include: (1) expansion of economic relations from their narrow bilateral base mostly concentrated with the United States and Japan, to a multilateral one; and (2) integration of the economy into the international trading system.

Now, the government is redesigning that diplomacy architecture by putting more emphasis on the welfare of three to four million Filipino overseas workers who are the geese that are laying the golden eggs of economic development.

The concrete expression of this economic diplomacy is the frequent overseas trips of President Ramos who has used the presidency as the principal instrument to attract foreign investment.

Policy Inadequate

For a while this policy strategy looked good—until the Contemplacion hanging blew up in the face of the government. The case disclosed the inadequacy of the policy and the foreign service in protecting the interests—and in many cases, the lives of the prolific OCW [overseas contract worker] geese sending remittances at the rate of $2 billion a year.

Romulo, in his farewell statement, admitted that he pushed forward "an aggressive economic diplomacy program. To an extent greater than we have ever done, the entire Foreign Service was reoriented and retooled for this purpose. Now, we are beginning to see the first fruits of this reorientation. This paradigm shift has become an irreversible and permanent part of our modern foreign policy outlook." Well, it is also bearing bitter fruit.

The fatal shortcoming and contradiction of this "paradigm shift" were that President Ramos mobilized the OCWs as a major source of financing development and encouraged export of Filipino labor without providing the infrastructure for defending their rights and dignity as human beings.

One pillar of that infrastructure is the Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA]. The phenomenal growth of the OCWs highlighted the inadequacy of the DFA to cope with the overseas workers' problem. The infrastructure was built on the model of the US state department, and the successful foreign ministries of the developed countries, notably the French Foreign Ministry and the British Foreign Office.

These models emphasized proficiency in language, correct protocol and etiquette, good manners, diplomatic receptions, and all the rituals that make diplomacy fascinating.

OCW problem

In the sedulous imitation of the glittering diplomatic style of the First World, it was forgotten that we are the only nation that has a large OCW problem. We are the single largest exporter of labor in the world. Although this is a unique problem, we continued to be beguiled by conventional diplomacy and its glitter, and neglected to provide adequate services to our OCWs in terms of legal assistance and staff to listen to their problems and expertise to plea for their human rights with host countries.

The Contemplacion crisis drove the Ramos government to the soul- searching that growth can't go ahead if social and popular aspirations are neglected. The widespread indignation of the people over the Contemplacion execution is a rebellion shouting at the government that its growth-oriented policy is lopsided and does not share popular support.

The political crisis over the OCWs conditions exposed the Ramos growth-centered strategy as hollow. In some ways, the OCW crisis is like the Chiapas rebellion in Mexico. That rebellion revealed the political and social vulnerability of Mexico's economic growth. It revealed that when benefits of growth are flowing mainly to the rich, the lower orders who are bypassed by these benefits are going to protest and their protest sparks economic crisis. For the Mexico crisis is not only a crisis of a deflated Mexican peso. It is also a social and political crisis.

The changing of the guard at DFA is more than a change in secretaries. It is a change in priorities and orientation of economic diplomacy.

Ramos Asks U.S. To Defer Khalifa Deportation

BK2504010495 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 2230 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ramos asked the U.S Federal Government to defer the deportation of the Arab businessman Mohammad Jamal Khalifa, the suspected financier of Abu Sayyaf, to the Middle East. The president wants the U.S Government to wait for the investigation conducted by the PNP [Philippine National Police] on Khalifa to prove whether he has any knowledge of terrorist operations. Khalifa is currently being detained in San Francisco for visa falsification and hiding from Jordanian authorities to evade bombing charges. The Justice Department is currently gathering documents pertaining to Khalifa.

Defense Secretary on Continued Spratlys Alert

BK2504011195 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 2230 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Secretary Renato De Villa revealed that the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] continues to send planes and navy ships to conduct reconnaissance missions in the Spratlys. According to De Villa, patrols continue to see Chinese vessels around the Mischief Reef, the island where China put up military garrisons. However, De Villa did not clarify whether the spotted Chinese ships are new or the same ships seen before. Despite the revelation, De Villa gave the assurance that war between China and the Philippines is a remote possibility.

Defense Analysts on Spratlys War Scenario

BK2504024795 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 21 Apr 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A military confrontation over Spratlys in the near future will pit China against the combined forces of Vietnam and Indonesia with all the other claimants like the Philippines playing minor roles, defense analysts attending the ASEAN Defense Technology Exchange '95 in Manila said.

The assessment was delivered amidst increased tension between Beijing and Manila over territorial claims triggered by China's alleged intrusion in Philippine waters. The Philippines has accused China of occupying Panganiban (Mischief) Reef, 130 nautical miles west of Palawan.

In a briefing prepared by Siti Azizah Abod and Col. Jamil Rais Abdullah of the Malaysian Defense Ministry, it was concluded that any future military confrontation over the Spratlys will still be an extension of the age-old conflict between China and Vietnam. They also warned the clash will have devastating effects as the two armies are among most modernized in the world.

"The South China Sea Conflict would eventually develop into a triangular struggle of China with Vietnam and Indonesia with all the other regional states playing an ancillary role," the analysts said.

They said Vietnam's strategy of joining the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and forging a common front with member countries to block China's activities in the South China Sea was a good move but said most of ASEAN states were reluctant to go against China to protect their interests. Only Indonesia with its goal of maritime supremacy will likely join Vietnam, they said.

The Malaysian defense officials also said recent developments in the South China Sea, fueled by China's physical occupation of the Panganiban Reef, will create an arms race among claimant countries to better protect their claims.

"At this stage only Vietnam and to a lesser extent Indonesia are equipped to fight conventional wars and this has prompted the other claimant countries to remould their defense doctrine and setup to counter any potential aggressive action," they said.

In the event war erupts among claimant countries, China's present air and naval power could only cover 200 to 300 nautical miles from Hainan Island.

"This also means that any future conflict in the near term... are likely to be in the form of Sino-Vietnamese military encounter," they said.

Beijing in recent years has been working on modernizing its military capabilities, particularly in the area of naval warfare, which shows the country "treats the ocean as strategic space and the navy an instrument for control of the ocean."

Following the Panganiban incident, the Philippines immediately passed into law a military modernization plan with the Philippine Navy and Air Force as primary recipients.

Reports said China may go to war in the near future to retake its territories from other claimant countries, which included the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia.

Editorial: Potential Spratlys War With PRC

BK2504024995 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 20 Apr 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Our worst fears about China"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The analysis by a pro-Beijing Hong Kong magazine of China's recent incursions in the Kalayaan Islands confirms our worst fears: China is establishing itself as a regional superpower by picking on the regional weakling—us.

The analysis is folksy and homespun—which means dreadfully Confucian and utterly utilitarian. According to the monthly WIDE ANGLE, a Chinese show of strength in Kalayaan would scare off other claimants. "By heavily striking those who first provoke hostilities and by recovering the land and sea that they took, the Chinese military can kill a chicken to warn the monkeys," the magazine said.

A roughly similar though less bellicose insight is provided by the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW. In a recent editorial, the weekly said that China, despite signing the Manila Declaration that enjoins all claimants of the Kalayaan to settle the dispute peacefully probably through joint exploitation of the area, really wants the issue to stay unresolved "until such time as China has sufficient military capability to enforce its desire."

"For all China's troubles with Vietnam, the dispute with the Philippines marks the first time Beijing has challenged an ASEAN member," the editorial said. "Given the weak state of the Philippine armed forces moreover, and Manila's sorry relations with its ASEAN colleagues, the moves on Mischief Reef appear well calculated."

For all of the REVIEW's sober and elegant language, it is easy to see that like WIDE ANGLE, it speaks in awe and encouragement of Beijing. Previously, the former has spoken against applying the human-rights criterion in United States' trade and economic dealings with China and backed Beijing's ignominious bid to host the Olympics despite the Tiananmen incident. It will not be surprising if one of these days it expresses support of Beijing's incursions in the Kalayaan on the basis of laissez faire and the need to hasten democratization in China.

The two publications, however, may be giving the Chinese too much credit for strategic planning. The fact is that the Chinese will go to war with any one that stands in the way of their capricious designs. The Chinese have a history of whimsical unpremeditated violence.

Such a history has been overlooked by those who argue for unbridled and unprincipled trade and economic ties with China ostensibly to accelerate its economic development, pull it out of isolation, persuade it to adopt humanist policies, make it less predictable in its conduct, and generally make it more neighborly. As China's adventure in the Kalayaan shows, the argument is dangerously naive.

For instance, Nicholas Kristoff and Sheryl WuDunne, the husband-and-wife team of the NEW YORK TIMES in Beijing, have already revised their benign view of China. In their new book, China Wakes, they admit they were wrong in calling China a "bloodstained dungeon" and nothing more. They declare that China is actually "a rotting state" where corruption is rampant and where business is largely in the hands of Mafia-style organizations of Communist Party elders and military men.

According to the authors, the fact that the Communist Party is "losing control of history" is problematic considering China's violent history. For the 20th century alone, four million Chinese died in the political campaigns after the 1949 revolution and 30 million during the Great Leap Forward. The horrors of the Cultural Revolution include cannibalism that is said to continue up to now.

It will not be far-fetched to expect the party men of Beijing coining another one of those silly slogans that were a staple of the Mao years to prettify what is otherwise a bloody national drive to extend China's territory south. A rehash of the old slogan will do. Why not "The Great Leap Downward—to the Kalayaan"?

Let us banish our romantic view that China will come to civilized senses if we pander to its cynical utilitarianism. Businessmen and the regionalists in our government may gush about China's economic potential and growth but as Kristoff and WuDunne remind us, "on the outside even donkey droppings gleam."

Editorial Speculates on Spratlys War

BK2504031795 Quezon City MALAYA in English 20 Apr 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Let's hope it's just psy-war"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] We hope it's just psy-war, this report from a pro-Beijing magazine in Hong Kong raising the possibility of China waging war to assert its territorial claim over the whole of the Spratlys with the Philippines, the weakest military among the claimants, as the initial target.

The report was published in WIDE ANGLE, a monthly said to reflect the thinking of the Chinese military.

The passing of the old guard in Beijing is drawing to its ineluctable conclusion. A death watch has been mounted on paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, the last of the pre-1949 leaders with distinguished military credentials.

When he goes, the modernist technocrats and the unreconstructed Maoists, now lying low, will be at each other's throats.

Which way the military will swing is anybody's guess. The worst scenario is the People's Liberation Army exploiting a stalemate in Beijing to press its own agenda. Why not a push to the South China Sea with its potential for oil and undersea mineral deposits?

As WIDE ANGLE notes, a Chinese show of strength will scare off other claimants.

"By heavily striking those who first provoke hostilities and by recovering the land and sea that they took, the Chinese military can 'kill a chicken to warn the monkeys'," the magazine said.

It judged the chances of a military clash in the area to be "quite high" and said Beijing's hope that claimants jointly develop the area in peace seems to face "many difficulties."

"Judging from the current situation, the Chinese Communist Party's former plans will likely change somewhat. If repeated conciliation, warnings, and threats all prove ineffective, then the main target for waging war would probably be the Philippines," it said.

One thing reassuring about this WIDE ANGLE report is that the analyst or analysts appear to be speculating. The phrase "judging from the current situation" is a tip off. The analyst/analysts themselves have no firm handle on the "current situation." It talks of the CPP's [as published] "former plans," but Beijing repeatedly insisted during last month's bilateral talks with the Philippines and the succeeding dialog with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations that it continues to hew to the principle of joint exploitation of the disputed areas in peace.

But the political wind in Beijing can shift anytime. There lies the danger to this "chicken" among the monkeys in the territories claimed wholly by the celestial dragon.

The Philippines does not have the capability to defend the Kalayaan Islands militarily. ASEAN, the possible vehicle for a diplomatic resolution of the dispute, has been weakened by the Philippine-Singapore row over the Flor Contemplacion hanging. The United States, the Philippines' lone defense partner, is in the middle of a foreign policy review following the Republican recapture of the Capitol.

We can only hope—and pray—the military adventurists do not gain the upper hand in Beijing. We have no cards to play in this high-stakes poker game over the Spratlys.

'Breakaway Faction' of MNLF Confirmed

BK2404162395 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 19 Apr 95 p 18

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cotabato City—Moro rebel chieftain Nur Misuari confirmed Monday the existence of a breakaway faction of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), called the Islamic Command Council (ICC), but he minimized its capability to derail the peace talks between the government and the MNLF.

The ICC was recently tagged by civilian and military leaders as responsible for the 4 April attack that killed almost 50 people, mostly civilians in Ipil, Zamboanga del Sur.

Misuari's confirmation was corroborated by former MNLF chief propagandist Hadji Ahmad Bayam who said that the ICC is led by three top breakaway MNLF leaders who "are out to give professor Misuari a real, big problem."

Earlier, the military intelligence community identified only one of the alleged leaders of the ICC organizers as certain Merham Alam.

But Bayam, a former member of the MNLF central committee and Misuari's erstwhile chief propagandist, said Alam "actually makes policy" together two comrades whom he identified as Sakiruddin Bah'jin and Abebakren Lukman.

Interviewed by the Catholic-run DXMS radio station here via long distance telephone from Saudi Arabia Monday [17 April] morning, Misuari said the "supposed leaders of the so called ICC are disgruntled members of the MNLF."

"They (ICC organizers) were discharged (from the MNLF) for committing blunders. They are now isolated," Misuari said.

Misuari said that the Ipil town carnage was a "tragic incident" in which "should not be viewed as a case of Muslim-Christian rift" because the victims were "members of both religions."

During the interview, he defended the MNLF's rival Moro Islamic Liberation Front [MILF], saying "it is unfair to insist that the MILF is involved in the atrocity," as previously reported.

Misuari, quoting the published reports in the Middle East, said the Ipil raid was planned and carried out by "insiders" or local residents of the embattled town.

"It could have been meant to sabotage the current MNLF-government peace talks," he said. "It was a regrettable incident."

In a separate interview, Bayam, whom the Lakas-NUCD [National Union of Christian Democrats]-UMPD [expansion unknown] regional leadership designated last 8 April as party spokesman for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said the ICC organizers "are a big problem to Misuari."

Bayam said Alam Bah'jin and Lukman even submitted to the Organization of Islamic Conference (ICO) in 1988 a paper denouncing Misuari's alleged policy of "discriminating non-Tausog cadres in the MNLF top leadership."

Bayam, who surrendered to then President Corazon Aquino in 1987, said the three ICC founders are "foreign-trained MNLF cadres like Misuari."

Bayam said Alam is a mestizo Yakan-Samal and a native resident of Ipil, while Bah'jin and Lukman are from Sulu with "Samal blood." Bah'jin is a direct descendant of the Sultan of Sulu.

Due to the reformist position of Alam, Bah'jin and Lukman, "Misuari stripped them of their ranks and powers in the MNLF," Bayam said.

"But this had emboldened them to fight Misuari by establishing separate connections abroad," he added.

Abu Sayyaf MNLF Unit Vows Punishment

BK2404065095 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 2230 GMT 23 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A high-ranking official of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission has revealed that the Abu Sayyaf is a unit of the MNLF [Moro National Liberation Front]. According to Task Force Habagat Chief Panfelo Lacson, the Abu Sayyaf is one of the divisions of the MNLF. Lacson said the camp where Charles Walton, an American, was detained when he was kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf in 1993, is in MNLF territory. According to Walton's statements to Lacson, the MNLF camp where he was kept for 23 days was also a store for sophisticated and high-caliber arms. Lacson's report was supported by Vice President Joseph Estrada. However, Chief Adviser Manuel Yan has rejected these reports, insisting that these accusations are baseless. In spite of these, the peace talks between the MNLF and the government will continue.

A three-day special meeting between the government and the MNLF panels to start today will probe into the participation of the MNLF in the Ipil attack. MNLF Chairman Nur Misuari has vowed to penalize the MNLF members who participated in the Ipil raid. He believed the raid was a plan to sabotage the peace talks between the MNLF and the government. Peace Adviser Manuel Yan believes that Misuari will keep his promise to penalize MNLF members who participated in the raid. The government panel will also ask for Misuari's assistance in arresting the terrorists who were reportedly hiding in MNLF camps.

De Villa Says MNLF Participated in Ipil Raid

BK2504012995 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 2230 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Secretary Renato De Villa stressed that several active members of the MNLF [Moro National Liberation Front] participated in the Ipil attack. According to De Villa, the 200 raiders were members of smaller groups under the MNLF. MNLF Chairman Nur Misuari strongly rejected De Villa's accusations and promised to punish those who participated in the attack. Earlier, De Villa warned that the peace talks and Organization of Islamic Conference might be affected if investigations reveal that many of the members of the MNLF participated in the raid. [sentence as heard]

Thailand

UN Envoy Supports Limited Extension of NPT

BK2504112295 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Apr 95 p A6

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York—Thailand looks set to vote for a definite renewal of the 5-year-old treaty barring the spread of nuclear weapons, as United States negotiators on the issue push for indefinite and unconditional extensions.

However, Thailand is still flexible on a proposed series of fixed periods of extension, preferably for 25 years each, with a regular review conference every five years.

"We support the treaty, but the unconditional renewal is totally unacceptable. We are accountable to future generations," said Thailand's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Nit Phibunsongkhram.

Thailand, along with other non-nuclear signatories to the 178-member Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), is against permanent and unconditional extensions, on the ground that this would reduce incentives for the nuclear powers to gear up towards nuclear disarmament, as enshrined in the treaty.

US Vice President Al Gore, speaking to the NPT Review and Extension Conference at the United Nations headquarters on Wednesday, said he wanted to see no less than indefinite extensions without conditions as the only vehicle to prevent regional rivalries from evolving into regional arms races. Without the permanent treaty, he said nations would prepare for worst cases by acquiring nuclear weapons to deter aggressive neighbours or as a hedge against future uncertainties.

"It is quite dramatic for the US to say that if we are not going to make the treaty permanent that we will begin a nuclear race or should prepare for worst case scenarios," said Nit.

"The fact that we are aware of the situation on the Korean Peninsula, border tensions between China and India and India with Pakistan, and the situation in the Middle East, boils down to the need to focus on collective efforts to bring all countries into the treaty or make them comply with the treaty," Nit said. India, Pakistan and Israel are three potential nuclear weapons states so far refusing to join the treaty.

Thailand, along with the five other Asean states, is drafting a blueprint for establishing a Southeast Asian

Nuclear Free Zone as a regional instrument to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region. Like Thailand, Brunei, Malaysia and Indonesia will vote for the definite extension while Singapore and the Philippines are likely to vote for indefinite extensions.

Nit said Thailand also supported a stronger commitment by the five nuclear powers towards regional nuclear free zone arrangements along the lines of the 1967 Tlatelolco Treaty, the first regional treaty on denuclearization in Latin America to be ratified by the five nuclear powers.

According to the ambassador, Thailand views with great interest various proposals aimed at strengthening the treaty's application, including South Africa's proposal for the setting up of a working subcommittee to look into the review process of the treaty's implementing and monitoring regimes, making it more transparent and accountable.

He will today take the conference's podium to present the Thai position on the weapons treaty, to which Thailand acceded in 1972, two years after it went into force in 1970. Thailand was among the first states, including Egypt, China, Mexico and Indonesia, to make their positions known openly.

Nit's speech will be delivered one day ahead of a statement expected to be released tomorrow by other members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) which is currently meeting in Bundung, Indonesia.

NAM chairman, Indonesia, which spearheaded the crusade against the indefinite extensions, is facing a tough test of the unity of the 113-member organization, dominated by impoverish Muslim and newly-independent states which rely on US foreign assistance and economic cooperation, as some members, especially the Island states, set to break ranks to vote for the indefinite extension.

Police Deploy Extra Security at U.S. Embassy

BK2504032595 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Apr 95 p 5

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Police have been instructed to deploy extra forces to patrol areas around the United States embassy and its consulates following last Wednesday's bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma City.

Special Branch Division 2 Commander Pol Maj-Gen [Police Major General] Phat Chaksurak said the police department has ordered agencies under his supervision to closely monitor the movement of terrorist groups.

Police patrols in government offices such as Government House, Parliament, the Interior Ministry and embassies will increase, the commander said.

PRC, Burmese Interest in Mekong Pact Seen

BK2504041995 Bangkok ZHONG HUA RIBAO in Chinese 21 Apr 95 p 8

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Krasae Chanawong said yesterday that China and Burma, the two riparian countries of the upper Mekong basin, are likely to support the agreement on cooperation for sustainable development of the Mekong River basin signed by four downstream Mekong countries in the northern province of Chiang Mai in early April.

Krasae made the statement while talking to reporters after receiving Liu Minxue, vice chairman of the All China Federation of Industry and Commerce. He said the meeting with the Chinese delegation was held amid a cordial atmosphere. The Chinese delegation was interested in the details of the agreement. Krasae also briefed Vice Chairman Liu on the main goals of the cooperation plan between the four Mekong countries—Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam. The Chinese side realized that the agreement will help promote relations between the countries involved. It will also enable southern China to have access to the sea. All the Mekong riparian countries will enjoy economic and trade benefits.

The foreign minister said that during his recent visit to Burma, Burmese Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw expressed interest in cooperating on the Mekong River development project.

No Evidence of Chemical Weapon Use by Burma

95WP0056A Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 25 Feb 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Colonel Adirek Yaemnganriap, the chairman of the Thai-Burmese Border Coordinating Committee, affirmed that Burmese government soldiers did not use chemical weapons in suppressing the minority groups. Examinations of those who have come to a hospital for treatment do not provide any evidence that they were subjected to chemicals.

Ministry To Use Reserves To Pay Yen Loan

BK2404153895 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Apr 95 p 20

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ministry of Finance plans to use treasury reserves to purchase more Japanese yen before the end of 1995 to repay the yen loan, according to a ministry source.

The source said the purchase plan has been made according to the situation in world money markets.

The plan over how much yen will be purchased depends largely on the outcome of the G-7 meeting this week, because the meeting is expected to affect the exchange rate of the greenback and the yen, the source said.

Under the current situation, the source noted that Thailand has to buy more yen while the exchange rate is lower than 100 yen for one US dollar.

During the past 4-5 years Thailand has gradually collected a substantial amount of yen while it was not as strong as it is now. During that period one US dollar could purchase more than 100 yen.

According to the current law, the Finance Ministry could use the country's reserves to purchase foreign currency to repay debts for five consecutive years.

However, the Finance Ministry plans to purchase enough foreign currency to repay the debts for two years.

The source said that at the end of 1993, the Finance Ministry purchased 7.2 billion yen to repay yen loans during 1994 and 1995. Meanwhile, the Ministry still has yen left over from the 2-3 billion yen purchased in 1993.

The ministry does not have any need to accumulate greenbacks as the dollar has been weakening, so the greenback will be purchased only when the dollar loan must be repaid.

JETRO Urges Bangkok To Reform Trade Laws

BK2504131395 Bangkok BUSINESS DAY in English 25 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Monica Scandlen and Roy H. Reynolds]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand needs to change laws and increase incentives to foreign investors if it is to compete with China for Japanese direct investment, according to Masayuki Kazumi, director of the Japan External Trade Organization, Jetro.

"It's urgent that Thailand revise some laws. It's a competitive world and Thailand has to loosen up a little more to attract investment," Mr Kazumi said yesterday.

Under present Thai law, Japanese companies must export 80 to 100 percent of what they produce in Thailand. Mr Kazumi said this goes against the natural tendency of foreign companies to begin selling in a domestic market in which they become established.

The rapid appreciation of the yen since 1992 has been the driving force behind Japanese investment overseas as production costs in Japan have escalated. According to a representative of a Japanese securities firm: "The recent appreciation of the yen has been the biggest stimulator for Japanese companies to find alternative places to invest."

In a recent survey of 250 Japanese companies, 61 percent were found to have relocated operations bases abroad, and 54 percent had taken their headquarters to elsewhere in East Asia.

According to the survey, Thailand stands to lose out to China as a destination for direct investment. Investors said they ranked China first, Thailand second, and Malaysia third.

They identified two advantages of China over Thailand: the sheer size of its huge potential market, and low wage levels, which are about one-third of Thailand's.

In contrast to the survey's respondents, Mr Kazumi believes that China's poor infrastructure, political instability, and lower level of technological know-how are becoming disincentives to investment which will eventually outweigh its current advantages.

Japanese investment is shifting from China to Asean countries, he said.

"Within Southeast Asia, Thailand has always been the center because of its access to Indochina," Mr Kazumi said.

A senior member of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce agreed: "Thailand and China are at different stages. China is just finalizing its investment regulations, while Thailand is already amending its laws."

The official added: "The more investment incentives the government provides, the more choice Japanese companies will have."

Dr Phasu Phanitsuphapon, president of SCB [Siam Commercial Bank] Research Institute, said: "The Thai economy is an open economy. The foreign sector already accounts for 80 percent of the overall economy."

Warin Nungnaeo, the institute's assistant vice-president, added that Japanese direct investment has mixed effects. Thailand benefits from Japanese businesses transferring new technology, but when that duplicates Thai industry it can hurt Thai companies and lead to calls for protectionism, she said.

Official Views Pharmaceutical Patent Law

BK2404133095 Bangkok KRUNGTHEP THURAKIT in Thai 24 Apr 95 pp 1, 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Yanyong Phuangrat, outgoing deputy director general of the Intellectual Property Department, said during an interview with KRUNGTHEP THURAKIT on 30 April that as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Thailand is obliged to amend some articles of the Pharmaceutical Patent Law to comply with the international agreement on the standardization of the laws of all WTO member countries.

Yanyong anticipated that Article 14, Article 19 (II), Article 60 (II), Article 36 (2) (3) (6), Article 46 (II), Article 47, Article 52, and Article 55 of the Pharmaceutical Patent Law of 1992 (second legislation) would be amended while Article 36 (4) (5) and Article 55 (II) will be abrogated as recommended by the Commerce Ministry.

Provisions will be added to Article 14 and Article 19 (II) to give protection to Thai citizens and countries which are signatories to the international agreement on the pharmaceutical patent law.

The protection will also be extended to six or seven new WTO members nations. The WTO currently has 136 members.

Article 36 will be scrapped, which will result in the abolishment of the Pharmaceutical Patent Committee. The present law authorizes the committee, chaired by the permanent secretary of the Public Health Ministry, to deliberate drug production costs as reported by pharmaceutical companies. The measure was designed to prevent drug manufacturers from setting drug prices at their will by citing unrealistic figures. Under the new law, manufacturers will be free to set prices for their products.

However, the Uruguay Round of trade talks prohibits member countries from promulgating such discriminatory laws. The Pharmaceutical Patent Committee was set up to look after only pharmaceutical products while other goods are not subject to the same control.

Yanyong did not believe that the abolishment of the committee will trigger drug prices to rise except those new products which are used for treatment of incurable diseases such as cancer and AIDS.

Newly invented drugs will be expensive when they are first introduced to the market. However, the marketing mechanism will automatically lower their prices as the result of their effectiveness and subsequent demand increase. In another scenario, social pressure can also force manufacturers of such drugs to cut the prices of their products.

It is necessary for the government to take certain actions or work out measures to keep prices of commodities under control.

Prices of newly developed ordinary drugs such as pain killers, antacids, and cough syrup can be high, but consumers do not have to use them and can turn to others in the market which are just as effective. Moreover, competition will also prevent manufacturers from freely setting exorbitant prices for their products.

Since the promulgation of the Pharmaceutical Patent Law in 1992 up to now, prices of medicines increased on average only 8 percent.

Yanyong disclosed that the amendment of Article 46 is designed to prohibit the transfer of patent rights to offspring of the right transferees without consent of the patent owner. The transfer of patent right to other people is permissible only when the patent owner is unable to produce the goods for marketing.

In short, the patent user cannot transfer the patent right to others for production.

The deputy director general of the Intellectual Property Department noted that in time of war the government can authorize local manufacturers to produce patented medicines to alleviate their shortage in the country.

The amendment of the Pharmaceutical Patent Law will be minimal to avoid infringement on the rights of patent owners.

He said, "The Commerce Ministry has already submitted the proposal to the Cabinet for consideration. The amendment process aimed at bringing the country's law into the international system has not yet been finalized." The faster the law is amended the better it is for the country's image.

There is no way to avoid joining the international system. "The faster we amend the law, the sooner we can start doing business."

Failure to make any change in this regard will result in numerous lawsuits. The government will have to work to save the country's image. It is now the era of information society, whatever happens in the country is always known in all parts of the world.

It is unlikely that the amendment of the Pharmaceutical Patent Law can be achieved in a short period of time. The Intellectual Department has proposed that the law be amended within five years.

A source in pharmaceutical circles said that the amendment of the legislation will certainly meet strong opposition from various nongovernment organizations and groups who believe the United States pressured Thailand to amend the law.

In particular, the move to change the legislation was initiated after the visit to Thailand by Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Robert Cassidy in March. The U.S. official called on Deputy Commerce Minister Kopsak Suphawasu after the new Copyright Law came into effect on 21 March.

Despite the fact that Cassidy was happy with the overall enforcement of the Copyright Law in Thailand, the United States is not yet satisfied with many points of the 1992 Pharmaceutical Patent Law.

First of all, the United States believes that the setting up of the Pharmaceutical Patent Committee has negative impacts on the U.S. entrepreneurs and recommends the abolishment of the committee so that the Price-Fixing and Anti-Monopoly Committee of the Internal Trade Department can be in charge of this matter.

Second, the United States wants a seven-year retroactive protection period for drugs which are already in foreign markets but not yet in Thailand. But the Thai law offers only one-year protection for such drugs. So far, pharmaceutical patents have never been registered in Thailand. The United States attached high significance to the retroactive protection for its medicines and claimed that other countries such as Singapore, China, and Korea have yielded to its demand.

Third, the existing law stipulates that the Thai Government can give patent rights to local manufacturers to legally produce patented medicines in case no production-know-how transfer is made, production is outside the country, prices are unrealistically high, or there is a shortage in the country.

Vietnam

Vo Van Kiet Urges U.S. To Normalize Relations

BK2504104495 Hong Kong AFP in English 1027 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi, April 25 (AFP)—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet called Tuesday for the United States to put its defeat in Vietnam behind it and establish diplomatic relations as the countries mark the passing of 20 years since the war.

"It is high time the United States and Vietnam established normal diplomatic relations and full economic and commercial ties," Kiet said. "We should put the past behind us and look to the future of the two countries."

Kiet told foreign journalists ahead of the 20th anniversary of the fall of Saigon that relations between Vietnam and the United States had improved in recent years with the lifting of the US trade embargo and the exchange of liaison offices.

But Washington is yet to take the final step towards setting up full relations with Vietnam, saying that must wait for a full accounting of 1,600 US troops still listed as missing in action (MIA) from the decade-long conflict.

Lobbyist groups from MIA families and some US veterans have steadfastly opposed normalisation although Washington says it accepts that Vietnam is now doing everything possible to aid in the search for the remains of US troops.

The prime minister began his news conference by stressing Vietnam's own losses in the conflict which cost three million Vietnamese lives according to figures released recently by Hanoi.

"The war has left behind heavy wounds for all the country," he said. "There is hardly a single family in our country whose relatives were not killed or injured during the war." Kiet's own wife and two children were killed in a US bombing raid.

"We have hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese servicemen missing in action, " he said. "The state has to provide permanent allowances to 1.5 million war invalids and families of former soldiers. Much has had to be overcome."

The premier, who is originally from southern Vietnam, said the country's celebrations of the anniversary were not aimed at rousing hatred against the United States but to motivate patriotism and a sense of resolve.

Celebrations for the event are expected to be muted with a parade of veterans and artistic events in Ho Chi Minh City as Vietnamese have remained conscious of the scars the US defeat has left in the United States.

Paper Marks Lenin's Birthday

BK2204141495 Hanoi VNA in English 0703 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA April 22.—Lenin's thoughts remain forever in our revolutionary cause as well as in that of progressive people over the world, said the national daily NHAN DAN in an editorial marking the 125th birth anniversary of a great leader of the working class and the oppressed people worldwide.

The editorial says:

'Following Vladimir Lenin's path the Vietnam Communist Party, founded and developed by the late President Ho Chi Minh, creatively applied Marxism-Leninism to the situations of Vietnam, leading the August 1945 revolution to success and founding the democratic republic of Vietnam in Sept. 1945—the first state of peasants and workers in Southeast Asia. The party also led the two resistance wars in 30 years against two powerful imperialist aggressors to victory to achieve national independence and reunification and is now leading the country to socialism with the goal of prosperous people, strong country and fair and civilized society'.

The paper speaks highly about the great role and far-reaching impact of Marxism-Leninism to the development of mankind over the 21st century. It continues: 'The renovation progress in our country in recent years has obtained important achievements in maintaining political stability and socio-economic development. One of the decisive reasons for this success is that our party has clearly perceived the scientific and revolutionary characteristics and vitality of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thoughts as foundation and compass for all activities of the party and the revolution of Vietnam'.

Joint Venture With Japanese To Develop Port

BK2504042695 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An agreement in principle on the establishment of a joint venture corporation to exploit Ba Ngoi Port in Cam Ranh has been signed between the Khanh Hoa Province Transport and Communication Service and Japan's (Kyoen) Steel Company. The joint venture, involving a total investment capital of $10 million, will operate for 40 years. The Vietnamese side is providing 30 percent of the capital in the form of land and sea rights and other existing assets. The project is expected to start in early July and is scheduled for completion by the year 2000. Once completed, Ba Ngoi Port will be able to receive 20,000-tonne ships and the cargo handling volume at the port will reach 1.5 million tonnes per year.

Vo Van Kiet Inspects Industrial Projects

BK2504131195 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet recently made an inspection tour of several areas allocated for building industrial complexes for foreign investment projects in Vinh Phu Province and Hanoi.

In Vinh Phu, the prime minister inspected the 40 hectare area of Phuc Thang village in Me Linh District, where industrial establishments will be built in the form of joint ventures with the Japanese Toyota and Honda groups to assemble three-seat cars and motorcycles. The prime minister held that the building of new industrial establishments such as factories for assembling automobiles or manufacturing cars and motorcycles in Vinh Phu is essential because this is a prerequisite for national industrialization and modernization. The selection of areas for each establishment or for the whole industrial complex must be made on the basis of a general plan that benefits socioeconomic development. As a result, efforts must be made to ensure effectiveness in using land and developing projects. For Vinh Phu Province, in the immediate future and on a longterm basis, attention should be paid to building industrial projects in hillock areas to develop the land potential of a number of midlands provinces.

In Hanoi, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet inspected the area zoned for building an industrial complex to manufacture highly-processed products at Xoai Dong, Hoi Gia, and Viet Hung villages of Gia Lam Ward, and the area allocated for building the Van Tri golf course in Dong Anh District. The prime minister commended Hanoi for its efforts in laying the groundwork for the building of integrated industrial complexes to serve industrialization and modernization. He hoped that these projects will be completed soon, thus enhancing the significant position of the capital city.

During his visit to the construction site of the Orion-Hanel Company, the prime minister hailed the construction group for accelerating its building work. He expressed the hope that through this joint venture, the Daewoo Group will provide assistance to and cooperate with Hanoi to develop electronic industries, a key industrial sector for Hanoi both now and in the future.

While exchanging views with leading cadres of Vinh Phu and Hanoi, the prime minister urged them to pay special attention to the effective and rational use of land during the preparation and construction periods, especially agricultural land. He called for resolute efforts to prevent localities from turning rice cultivated areas into areas for capital construction projects, especially where land for such purposes is still ample.

Airport Upgrade Worth $4 Billion Approved

BK2104044495 Hanoi VIETNAM INVESTMENT REVIEW in English 13-19 Mar 95 p 6

[AFP report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet has signed a 15-year masterplan to upgrade Tan Son Nhat International Airport in Ho Chi Minh City, the largest in Vietnam, an airport official said recently.

This masterplan, which will cost about US$4 billion, includes the upgrading, construction, and replacement of airport facilities such as runways, terminals and car parks, he added.

No details were given about the financing of the masterplan, nor from where Vietnam hopes to find the capital for the project, which has attracted foreign investor interest. By 2010, Tan Son Nhat Airport will be able to receive annually 30 million passengers and one million tonnes of freight, the official said.

The airport, once the busiest in Southeast Asia when it served as the main airbase for U.S. forces in Vietnam before 1975, will nearly double its area from 605 hectares to 1,122 hectares, he said.

About two million passengers passed through Tan Son Nhat last year and the airport handled 64,000 tonnes of cargo in 1994.

The airport, located a short distance from the center of Ho Chi Minh City, currently handles around 50 flights a day but facilities are limited and overstretched.

Last year, Vietnam announced plans to spend $500 million upgrading Hanoi's tiny Noi Bai airport, including a new runway and terminal building, and is seeking Japanese funding for the project.

Domestic and international air travel has boomed in Vietnam in the past four years, with Vietnam Airlines breaking the one million passengers-a-year mark, up from just 40,000 in 1990.

* Catholics Said To Pose Political Problems in Thai Binh

952E0069A Hanoi TAP CHI QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN in Vietnamese Jan 95 pp 51-54

[Article by Nguyen Xuan Lai, Tien Hai District Communist Party of Vietnam secretary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Building a local political base that is strong in all respects is a basic factor for effectively opposing the "peaceful evolution" of the enemy forces today. Because of its special geographical, economic, and social characteristics, the above requirement is even more essential for Tien Hai.

As a coastal lowland district, Tien Hai holds a very important position on the national defense-security front in Thai Binh Province in particular and in the country in general. The district's coastline extends for 44 km. The two main estuaries are those of the Red River and Tra Ly River. Along the coast, there are two large islets, the Vanh and Thu islets, which are about 4,000 hectares in size. There is one main highway from Thai Binh City to the coast and five roads connecting the villages in the district to the coast. This is also the economic development center of the province, because it has rather great economic potential concerning agriculture, the ocean, handicrafts, arts, and the gas industry. In the Eastern Ocean [South China Sea], there are various joint-venture economic activities with other countries in the district's locality, and these activities can be expanded. At the same time, many religious people live in this district. A total of 28 of the 35 villages have a Buddhist temple, with 51 Buddhist monks and 6,887 followers. Also, there are Catholics in 25 of the 35 villages, with the Catholics here accounting for one-third of all Catholics living in Thai Binh Province. There are 9 rectories and 61 parishes with 4 official priests, 3 priests who are attending school, 9 presiding officers, and 61 notables. In some villages such as Nam Trung, Catholics account for up to 70 percent of the population. The above characteristics both contain favorable factors and pose difficulties for building a political base in the locality.

Tien Hai's basic advantage in building the political base is that the locality has a revolutionary tradition, which is marked by the peasant movements since 1930. Since the founding of the party, through the revolutionary periods, the people in the district, including both Catholics and non-Catholics, have shown great solidarity, had faith in the leadership of the party, and made notable contributions to the revolution. In the present stage of building and defending the homeland, the people here continue to manifest this tradition. However, today, in the face of the requirements concerning the all-round renovation of the country and in the face of the plots and stratagems of the enemy, who want to implement a strategy of "peaceful evolution," the construction of the political base in the locality must hit the target of maintaining political stability, developing the economy, maintaining a strong national defense and security, and having a progressive culture and society bearing the national characteristics.

We all know that the fundamental target of the "peaceful evolution" strategy of the enemy is to replace our socialist system without having to invade Vietnam from abroad. In this strategy, the political and ideological front is the leading front, which they refer to as "ideological strength to compete with communism." Their plots and stratagems usually consist of rejecting Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh thought, the leading role of the communist party, and the superiority and achievements of socialism. They spread propaganda to extol the values of capitalism, their political system, political pluralism, and opposition parties. They raise the banner of "freedom," "democracy," and "human rights," try to separate the people from the party and local authorities, and try to make use of the disputes among the people and of the policy mistakes and authoritarianism and corruption of degenerate and degraded party members and cadres in order to encourage opposition. They are bringing in degenerate cultural products and spreading the pragmatic and corrupt way of life of a consumer society. Everything is aimed at immediate gratification and narrow individual aspirations, which turns people into slaves of material wealth with no thought given to ideals. These are very dangerous plots that are aimed at "depoliticizing" each element, each stratum, and each age group in society. They say that ever since the collapse of the Soviet Union, there has been a political and ideological "vacuum" in Vietnam and that there have been manifestations of "depoliticizing life." This is an opportunity for the opposition forces to politicize the masses based on the "democratic" line.

In reality, at a number of bases and in a number of localities, many people have forgotten the targets and ideals. They are afraid to participate in political and social activities. This is true even of a number of cadres and party members. Because of this, the struggle against "peaceful evolution" has not yet become an ordinary political concept among cadres and party members or among the people at the primary level.

In the face of this situation, the district CPV committee and district people's committee have reevaluated the general situation in the district and reexamined each base and village. Various weaknesses have been discovered. The purpose of this has been to enable them to provide concrete and accurate guidance and solve the problems in a timely manner. The implementation of the policies by the cadres and party members has been examined, and violations have been dealt with harshly. Steps have been taken to solidify and improve the party base organizations and expel the degenerate and degraded party members. The mass organizations, such as the Youth Union, the Women's Association, the Veterans Association, and the labor union, have been solidified, and activist forces among the people and among the Catholics have been built. Cadres and party members must be provided with information about the basic issues and new knowledge that affect political and ideological guidelines, the issues concerning the viewpoints and lines of the party and state in the spheres of politics, economics, national defense-security, and foreign affairs, and issues concerning religious and ethnic minority policies. Today, all members of the standing committees of the village CPV committees have middle-school theoretical standards, and almost all of the village chairmen and vice chairmen have been provided with knowledge about social control. Of the 383 village and town party committee members, 55 percent have Level-3, higher school, or college level cultural standards. Efforts have been concentrated on clarifying a number of new problems concerning the Agricultural Tax Law, the Land Law, and knowledge concerning the sea and ocean sovereignty, and this has been tied to and applied to local realities. This has created a basis for increasing political capabilities, improving moral and revolutionary qualities, and enabling each cadre and party member to deal with the actual problems in the locality effectively, accurately, and creatively in accord with the viewpoints of the party and state.

Improving and simplifying the cadre apparatus have been carried on actively, and this has contributed to improving the results of the work of the cadres and party members. Since 1991, the number of cadres from the district to the primary levels has decreased by more than 50 percent. At the primary level, there used to be 437 production units, but there are now 326 hamlets led by 316 party chapters. And 97 percent of the party chapter secretaries also serve as hamlet chiefs. The quality of the party organizations and ranks of party members and cadres has improved each year. In 1991, only 45.5 percent of the primary-level party organizations were strong organizations. By 1993, this percentage had risen to 60 percent. In 1991, 7 percent of the primary-level party organizations were weak, but by 1993 this had dropped to 5.3 percent. Each year, more than 90 percent of the party members exert a good influence.

State management by the district and village authorities has undergone a change in managing things by law and mobilizing the integrated strength of the people to complete the economic and social programs.

But the basic thing is that the cadres, party members, and people must be made to understand the insidious plots and stratagems of the enemy in implementing the "peaceful evolution" strategy so that they increase their vigilance and discover and promptly smash these plots. In spreading propaganda and educating people, we must tell the truth. We must tell what we have done and what we have not done and what things will take time to overcome because of our shortcomings and mistakes. We cannot say that everything is rosy, but we cannot allow the people to misunderstand the real situation, which the enemy could then use to distort things.

Emphasis must be given to building national defense and security forces. The ideological problems and distortions in the party and among the authorities and people must be dealt with, and people's understanding concerning the situation and the task of protecting the party and the system in the new stage must be increased. The effects of the leadership mechanism must be manifested to a high degree. Regulations and plans closely linked to the primary level must be formulated, things must be discovered at the primary level, and control over organizing and implementing things must be strengthened. The district and village military and public security organizations must constantly be solidified and improved, and conditions must be created to enable these organizations to play their staff role and perform their functions in organizing things and carrying out this work. The leadership, control, and management cadres must set an example in both word and deed, stick close to the primary level, and understand the national defense and security tasks. In order to build a strong local political base, a very basic task is to concentrate on expanding the economy and improving the people's living conditions in all respects.

Expanding the economy and improving the lives of the people is both the target of leadership activities and a very important factor in solidifying and strengthening the people's confidence in the party, regime, and system. Thus, in recent years, particularly since the 22d District Party Congress in 1990, the party organizations and people in the district have continued to renovate the management mechanism and the economic and investment structures and promote the use of scientific and technical advances in production, and they have improved the district's economy and gradually switched to commodity production. In 1993, the gross value of agricultural and industrial production increased 35.6 percent as compared with 1990. Per capita grain yields reached 594 kg in 1993. A number of villages have begun forming specialized cultivation zones to grow crops of high economic value. The coastal hamlets and villages have concentrated on exploiting more fully the economic potential of the ocean, including rearing and catching marine products, producing salt, and planting trees to provide protection. The water area used to rear marine products has more than doubled as compared with 1990. The district has encouraged and created the conditions to enable the localities to restore and expand a number of traditional and strong occupations in the locality such as construction, the production of building materials, the processing of grain, timber, and bamboo, weaving, the making of hats, and so on.

Expanding production has narrowed the sphere of poverty and reduced the poverty level. The number of households with sufficient food and the number of prosperous and wealthy households has increased. Prior to 1993, approximately 20 percent of the households lacked sufficient food, but by 1993 this figure had been reduced to 3.5 percent. The percentage of prosperous and wealthy households has increased to 42.1 percent. Today in the localities, 94 percent of the households live in constructed houses, and 15-20 percent have television sets and motorcycles. The growth of the economic elements has attracted and enabled a large number of laborers to find jobs. In 1992 and 1993, the district invested more than 1 billion dong to provide capital for job creation programs. A total of 640 households were sent to build knew economic zones in the district and outside the province, and a number of new population centers in the district's coastal area were formed.

In expanding the economy and improving the standard of living at the primary level, the district has launched a new rural area construction movement in order to renovate the material and technical base and the face of the rural areas. With the motto the state and people working together, during the past 3 years, the entire district has mobilized the integrated strength of all the forces to build the material base and invested more than 50 billion dong to build the infrastructure through specific projects: field, roads, electricity, broadcasting stations, and schools. More than 100 projects have been put into use. The entire district has improved and upgraded more than 200 km of roads of various types. In this, it has put down rock and paved more than 100 km. It has brought the national power net to all of the villages and to 95 percent of the households. A total of 236 electronic switchboards have been completed and put into use. Now, all of the villages in the district have well-built, multi-story general primary schools. The system of village medical aid stations has been upgraded in accord with the standards. In the district, 33 of the 35 villages have primary-level broadcasting stations. In investing in building the primary level, we have give much attention to the coastal villages and hamlets, places with large Catholic communities, and areas that still have many difficulties. The electricity and broadcasting networks have reached the villages and hamlets. Schools, medical aid stations, and cultural buildings have been built, and a communications network has been built to ensure that travel is convenient in accord with a market mechanism. The rural economy has been expanded, and the people's standard of culture has been improved. Based on this, we have built solidarity between those who hold religious beliefs and those who do not and between the people and the party organizations and local authorities. This has enabled us to overcome the weaknesses and strengthen the weak localities. For example, Nam Trung Village, where there is a large Catholic community, used to be a weak village. But because of the investments made to develop the village in all respects, particularly on the economic front, the village's difficulties and weaknesses have been overcome. In 1992, Nam Trung Village became one of the leading villages in the district in all respects. It was a village with one of the best charitable movements in the province with 37 friendship books with 11.1 million dong and 6 friendship houses donated to the families of war heroes and war invalids.

Carrying out the above things in conjunction with promoting the struggle against corruption, smuggling, and negative aspects and promoting a mass movement to maintain security and attack and eliminate criminals has enabled the localities in Tien Hai to maintain political stability, keep national defense and security strong, and improve the material and spiritual lives of the people. The weaknesses have gradually been overcome, and negative phenomena have been eliminated. The people are enthusiastic and have faith in the lines, policies, and positions of the party and state, and they are united in the struggle to successfully implement these lines, policies, and positions. At the same time, they are actively contributing to building the party organizations, administrative organizations, and mass organizations in the localities. Action is being taken to promptly discover and take effective steps against the destructive plots and stratagems of the enemy and to protect the peaceful life and laborers in the localities.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.